

# A MILLION LIVES SAVED

THE CHURCHES OF AMERICA  
AND THE NEAR EAST

A Handbook for Pastors  
1923



*"They climbed the steep ascent to Heaven  
Mid peril, toil and pain;  
O God to us may grace be given  
To follow in their train."*

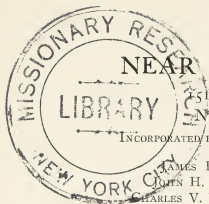


# A MILLION LIVES SAVED

HANDBOOK FOR PASTORS



NEAR EAST RELIEF  
151 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY



# NEAR EAST RELIEF

251 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL ACT OF CONGRESS

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## PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

### To Christian Pastors in America:

This Handbook is sent to you in the hope that it will aid you in presenting the cause of the Christian peoples of the Near East to your congregations. We earnestly hope you will feel that their cause is worthy of an adequate presentation some time during the year: either in connection with a Near East Community Field Day; or on some early date most convenient. It may be presented by a visiting speaker or by yourself. But we hope that you will give an entire service at a time when your substantial people are present with opportunity for them to give toward the support of this relief work which is at the same time a great missionary and international project.

Will you not make this cause a part of your program? Do not wait for the Near East Relief to knock at your door; invite it to come. It is merely the servant of the Church. It is your instrument in a great life-saving work. It is of missionary origin, is chartered by Congress, recognized by the American people, welcomed by the people of the Near East, and enjoys the co-operation of the governments concerned.

This Handbook contains information regarding the Near East, a statement of the programs of our great denominations, abundant sermon material and helpful suggestions for promoting this or any other missionary work. It gives a knowledge of the problems involved, possible future developments, obligations of the American people, what has been done and what remains to be done.

We are including in this manual some statements relative to "Justice to and Protection of Minorities in the Near East." We include this section with the thought that many pastors will not be content with the presentation of the problem of relief and the care of orphans, but will desire to educate their people as to the responsibility of all Christian nations and of America in particular toward the Near East, and to stir their conscience in this matter.

You,—the pastors of America,—deserve a very large share of the reverent appreciation which the Christian peoples of the Near East shower upon America. We thank you for what you have done. But we beg you not to permit your people to "grow weary in well doing." It would have been better to have permitted the more than one hundred thousand children dependent upon America's continued care to have perished in the helpless misery, than having put light into their eyes, play into their limbs and hope into their hearts, then to forget them. And the way to keep people from forgetting or growing weary is to give them the facts. If people see what has been done, constructively, and yet keep in their mind's eye the picture of the tragedy that will ensue if they withdraw support, there is little to fear in this regard.

*Your knowledge and your evaluation of this project of Christian International Social Service and your support of it are all important. General church leaders, Board Secretaries, Bishops, Regional and State Church Executives, in spite of their own professional obligations, as a rule are giving unequalled sympathy and leadership. And yet it is the local congregation from which the money comes. And it is the pastor to whom all must look not only for the presentation of this cause to his people, leading them to accept responsibility for its support, but for influencing lay leadership in the community and for creating the sentiment for co-operation in district, state and national church gatherings.*

*It is with this responsibility in mind that we thus appeal to you.*

We shall be pleased to supplement this Handbook with our latest printed matter, such as a new pamphlet setting forth the co-operation of the church and the Near East Relief, maps, cables, the current issue of our monthly magazine THE NEW NEAR EAST, a pageant for Sunday Schools, and other material upon request. It is expected that you will find this material not only helpful for immediate use, but of sufficient value to start a permanent file on this subject.

Will you write to the State offices of the Near East Relief (list given in the back of this book) or to our national headquarters for such material as may be of help to you.

JOHN R. VORIS,  
Director Church Relations,  
151 Fifth Avenue, New York.

## A MILLION LIVES SAVED

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A MILLION LIVES SAVED .....	6
I. FIVE AREAS OF OPERATION	
Northwest Persia and Mesopotamia .....	8
Russian Armenia or Trans-Caucasia.....	8
Palestine and Syria .....	9
Constantinople and Asia Minor.....	9
Greece .....	10
II. THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR RELIEF	
A Message from Dr. James L. Barton.....	12
A Picture of Deep Distress .....	12
Cablegrams Reveal the Need .....	14
III. THE PEOPLE OF THE NEAR EAST	
Armenian Loyalty to Christ .....	15
Our Armenian Allies .....	15
Armenian Characteristics .....	16
The Greeks .....	16
The Syrians .....	17
The Persians .....	17
The Assyrians .....	17
IV. A CLOUD OF WITNESSES	
Recent Eye Witnesses .....	18
Other American Church Leaders .....	21
Near East Leaders .....	23
V. THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR PROTECTION	
Position of Near East Relief .....	25
Pronouncements by Denominations and Federal Council .....	25
Statements by Church Leaders .....	26
The Pleas of the Patriarchs.....	27

## VI. THE NEAR EAST RELIEF ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM

Its Christian Origin and Spirit .....	28
Efficiency and Economy of Administration .....	29
Chartered by Congress.....	30
A Vast International Social Service.....	30
Personal Service Work.....	31
Heroism of Overseas Workers .....	31
An Estimate of Near East Relief.....	32
Other Nations Co-operating .....	33

## VII. THE CHURCHES IN CO-OPERATION

Sunday School Co-operation .....	34
Denominational Near East Advisory Committees....	35
Denominational Field Days .....	35
Special Plans of Co-operation .....	35
Convention Conferences .....	36
Regional, State and District Co-operation.....	36
Religious Press .....	36
Young People's Societies .....	36
Roman Catholic Co-operation .....	36
Interdenominational Co-operation—Federal Council of Churches and Foreign Missions Conference.....	37

## VIII. THE PASTOR AND HIS CHURCH IN THE NEAR EAST

The Pastor's Program in His Own Church .....	39
Suggested Sermon Texts .....	40
In the Steps of Our Master .....	41
Technique of the Near East Service .....	42
The Pastor and His Sunday School.....	44
The Pastor and Other Co-operating Agencies .....	45
The Pastor and His Young People's Societies .....	45
The Pastor and the Women's Organizations .....	45

BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	47, 48
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## STATE OFFICES

## A Million Lives Saved

**M**ORE than a million lives saved, and the largest single factor in this tremendous salvage of humanity has been the leadership and devotion of the Christian pastors of America.

Many a minister, with salary barely sufficient to pay his own meagre grocery bills, has, by the fearless presentation of twentieth century facts to his congregation, been the means of feeding and saving dozens, scores—in some instances hundreds—of helpless, exiled, Christian women and children who otherwise would have perished.

Does the outlook seem dark? From a human standpoint, Yes. But through the eyes of Christian faith, No.

One morning this last summer the ship on which I traveled was riding at anchor in the Bosphorus, awaiting permits from the Allied Control before proceeding to Batoum, the gateway to the Armenian Republic. My scripture reading for the morning included II. Corinthians 10, 4: "*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds.*" Around us on every side in the Bosphorus were the world's greatest carnal weapons—huge battleships, dreadnaughts, torpedo boats and destroyers. Practically every important nation in the world was represented by mighty men-of-war standing guard over the Bosphorus. From these modern engines of military force my mind ran swiftly back over thirty centuries of history. I thought of the armies and navies that had crossed and recrossed these historic straits at "The Cross-Roads of the World."

If history recorded the movements of the ancient waves of invasion going out of Asia into Europe, the Straits, undoubtedly, would figure largely in the records.

Later, but before the time of Christ, the mighty armies of Xerxes crossed here by a bridge of boats to invade Europe. Here, also, a century and a half later, the thirty thousand Infantry of Alexander made its invasion of Asia to defeat the Persians and Grecians under Darius in the battle of Granicus.

Here, later the forces of the Cross and those of the Crescent surged back and forth in their holy wars. In the fourteenth century, Murad I. led a mighty host of Turks into Thrace. In the fifteenth century, the Greeks furnished passage here for the forces under Mustapha, who was quickly driven back by Murad II. The Turks became masters of the Straits at the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and for half a millennium have retained the mastery.



And what is there to show for all this colossal carnage, the loss of millions of lives, and billions in property? For fruitage, I looked out and saw the desolate, forlorn, fire-swept, ruined area of Constantinople and thought of the indescribable suffering of the countless thousands of the Christian subject races as well as of Turks throughout the interior of Anatolia and the Near East. The armies and navies have failed.

Then my mind turned to the tens of thousands of orphan children, war's aftermath, many of whom I had seen the preceding day in the orphanages of Near East Relief, and I thought of their promising young lives, their childlike simplicity, their appreciation of the simplest comforts of life, their ready response to loving ministry, their minds as yet unpoisoned by race hatred.

I thought of their thirst for knowledge, their ambitious rivalry for excellence, their aptitude for learning, their keen intellects with evident ability to achieve, and then I looked forward fifteen or twenty years when these children may, and, if we are faithful to our opportunity, will be scattered throughout the entire Near East as leaders in the industrial, social and economic life of the country, and I said to myself:

"Is it not true that we, through these hundred thousand orphan children, have in our hands today the opportunity of doing for the Near East that which all the armies of Alexander, Pompey, Darius, and their successors, with their torrents of blood, oceans of misery, and poisonous strife, have failed to accomplish?"

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you" or unto your children, if you had died a martyr's death or perished because of allegiance to the Allied cause and your children had been left orphans—whatsoever ye would that other men should do unto your children in such circumstances, do ye even so unto them.

Lord, when saw we Thee hungry or sick or athirst or naked or in prison and ministered not unto Thee?

*When?*

Now, in the land of Our Saviour's birth and ministry, in Palestine, Syria, among the descendants of the Seven Churches of Asia, in the crowded, wretched refugee camps on the islands and shores of the Aegean Sea, and "inasmuch as ye did it or did it not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it or did it not unto me. Enter into or depart from the joy of thy Lord."

The joy of the Lord was in *sacrificial* service. He gave Himself even unto death and spared Himself not at all.

CHARLES V. VICKREY, General Secretary.

## I.

### FIVE AREAS OF OPERATION

- I. Northwest Persia and Mesopotamia
- II. Russian Armenia or Trans-Caucasia
- III. Palestine and Syria
- IV. Constantinople and Asia Minor
- V. Greece

There are five principal and distinct areas in which Near East Relief operates. Three of these areas are in no way affected by recent Turkish Nationalist military operations except as the number of dependents and orphans in these three areas has been greatly increased by swarms of refugees flooding into them for safety from the fourth, the Anatolian area, which is now dominated by the Nationalists.

#### I. NORTHWEST PERSIA AND MESOPOTAMIA

In connection with the persecution and deportations of 1915, thousands of Armenians fled for safety from their ancestral homes in Turkish Armenia across the borders into Northwest Persia. There they cast their lot with other resident Armenians and with the Nestorian and Chaldean Christians, who, for centuries, had occupied the plains around Urumia.

The late forced and tragic exodus of these Christians, driven by the Turkish-Kurdish sword from their ancestral homes southward across Persian deserts through Hamadan to seek temporary refuge in camps near Bagdad, and their later return through Mesopotamia to Tabriz where they are now striving for rehabilitation, are known to most readers of church and modern history.

Near East Relief has not the resources to grapple adequately with all the relief problems of this area, but by the maintenance of orphanages, industries and hospitals it is at least saving the lives of the children and aiding the adults to regain self-support, thus helping to preserve the remnant of one of the oldest Christian races known in Church history.

This area is not directly affected by Nationalist military operations.

#### II. RUSSIAN ARMENIA OR TRANS-CAUCASIA

By far the largest work of Near East Relief has been among the almost countless hordes of refugees that in 1915 and subsequently, fled for safety from Turkish Armenia across the borders into Russian Armenia, or Trans-Caucasia. Most of the men were killed before or during flight, and many, if not a majority, of the women perished or otherwise disappeared. The result is that we have in Trans-Caucasia or Russian Armenia what has been called a "nation of orphan children." There are approximately 17,000 of these orphan children today in one vast assemblage occupying the former Russian military barracks at Alexandropol.

They are industrious, spending one-half of every day in workshops and the other half in the schoolrooms. They make their own clothing

from the old clothes or cloth sent from America, raise much of their own food, and do as much as possible of their own work, learning trades and reaching out towards self-support and industrial leadership.

There are approximately 25,000 orphans in Near East Relief institutions in the Caucasus alone. Most of these 25,000 children would perish before spring if Near East Relief assistance and supervision were withdrawn.

The country itself is potentially rich, but since 1914 it has been repeatedly war-swept and ravished, caught between the upper and nether millstones of Turkish invasion and Russian revolution.

There are today considerably more than a million Armenians (Russian residents and Turkish refugees) in this area.

The Catholicos, Head of the ancient Armenian Catholic Church, residing at Etchmiadzin, the President of the Armenian Republic and all other authorities, in deep gratitude declare that at least a half million, if not a full million, of residents in this area would have perished of sheer starvation had it not been for American relief.

This area likewise is in no way seriously affected as yet by Nationalist military operations.

### III. PALESTINE AND SYRIA

Here we begin to walk literally in the footsteps of our Lord and of the early Apostles.

In Bethlehem, Near East Relief has been given, by the Palestine Government, full possession of the buildings and grounds of a well-known German orphanage. Of late this orphanage has been used for other purposes, but will now be restored by Near East Relief to its original purpose as an orphanage for Armenian children in the town of Our Saviour's birth and within a short distance of the manger where the Child Christ was laid.

Six miles north, in Jerusalem are 600 Armenian children, brought as waifs from Mesopotamia to the buildings of Saint James' Monastery.

In Nazareth a new orphanage has been opened within a short distance of the boyhood home of Christ. It is planned to limit this orphanage to boys of twelve years of age.

Additional data on these areas is given on page 41.

These areas of Syria and Palestine are likewise beyond the reach of the present military operations and control of the Turkish Government.

### IV. CONSTANTINOPLE AND ASIA MINOR

The fourth area, Constantinople and Asia Minor, more recently known as Anatolia, is under the control of the Turks and our entire program of relief and reconstruction is being radically changed to meet new conditions. It has been necessary to remove practically all of the orphans from this area in order to insure their safety.

This work began last August with the transfer of 5,000 orphans from Harpoot to Northern Syria. Since that time, all of the orphans of this area have been transferred or are now in process of removal as indicated by cablegrams recently received:

## Cables Tell of the Evacuation

NearEast, NY

Constantinople, Dec. 18, 1922.

All Near East Relief orphanages at Constantinople will be evacuated by Christmas day. The last to depart will be 1200 from the Cushman orphanage, embarking December 21st. They will spend Christmas on board the ship.

JACUITH.

NearEast, NY

Beirut, December 12, 1922.

All orphans under American care in lower Anatolia have been brought out safely and taken by boat to Beirut.

ARCHER.

The service stations established by Near East Relief along the routes to sustain children in their march, have inevitably been called upon to save the lives of adults also who would faint by the roadside without the nourishment that these kitchens can provide. The following cablegrams tell the story of countless thousands who are thus upon the march:

NearEast NY

Athens, December 18, 1922.

Exceedingly regret the Angora Government failed to give absolute assurance of safety for the Christian population if they remained. In the absence of such guarantee, the Christian population interpreted the Turkish permission to leave as an order.

FOWLE.

NearEast NY

Aleppo, December 14, 1922.

Kemalist instructions all Christians must evacuate Turkish territory has caused general deportation from Anatolia to Aleppo. Fifty thousand Armenian refugees already arrived, thousands on way. All robbed, naked, wounded, girls violated, misery indescribable. Help urgently needed.

PEHLIVANIAN, President Armenian National Union.

Vickrey NY

Constantinople, Dec. 16, 1922.

Extreme cold, snow, and storms aggravate the plight of Asia Minor refugees. Death is overtaking thousands of the children and the aged infirm on the frozen roads of Anatolia, aboard the tossing rescue ships in the Black Sea, and in the camps near Constantinople.

Moving over the worst mud roads in the world, I saw a crowd of broken civilians more depressing than an army in hard-pressed retreat. Women about to become mothers tramped in snow up to their knees. Tired children dropped weary by the wayside, and girls of tender years bore men's burdens.

JACUITH.

NearEast NY

Lausanne, November 25, 1922.

Refugees from Asia Minor destitute clothing shelter food. Nothing by way relief can Peace Conference accomplish for winter. All largely dependent upon American benevolence.

BARTON.

In Constantinople we have been caring for some 10,000 to 14,000 children, but even here we have been compelled to move the children. Perhaps the Lausanne Conference, together with the proximity of Allied naval and military forces, will in the near future protect us and the children from the necessity of further expensive and dangerous compulsory flights to unknown destinations.

We use the words "unknown destinations," for where can these children go? America refuses to receive them by our immigration laws. England and France cannot take care of them. Canada's immigration laws debar them. Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Roumania, all other countries, husband their own resources and debar them.

These children were born on Turkish soil. Their families for centuries, dating back before the Christian era, and antedating the Turk himself in occupation, have lived in Anatolia. They are literally being shoved off their ancestral homes into the sea,—with no place to land.

But the one country that is most impoverished, that is most overpopulated, that is least able to care for them, is at present the only country that will receive them,—Greece.

## V. GREECE

This, of necessity, opens up to Near East Relief a new and vast area where, by force of circumstance, we are compelled to operate. As we write, there are approximately 10,000 orphans afloat between various Anatolian ports and Piraeus or other Greek ports where they may be permitted to land.

There are at present 3,144 Armenian orphans occupying the Kaiser's summer palace and grounds at Corfu; 1,355 at Oropos; 400 occupying the ancient Royal Palace at Athens; 6,000 boys in the monastery buildings near Mt. Athos.

But these exiled, helpless, fatherless, motherless children, orphans of martyrs, once landed on the shores of impoverished Greece, must be cared for during the winter months.

One might make a sixth division of Near East Relief work by referring to the general relief problem among the million or more of refugees now swarming the Aegean islands and the shores of the Aegean Sea, in which the American Red Cross assumes a major part, though Near East Relief is continuing its orphanage, medical and individual personal service among these refugees.

A conservative summary of the figures would be:

Refugees homeless and without adequate provision for food and shelter for the winter—1923 .....	1,250,000
Refugees in Anatolia and Constantinople threatened and even now beginning flight that may culminate in a greater disaster than was witnessed at Smyrna .....	1,250,000
A total number now homeless or threatened with exile.....	2,500,000

## II.

### THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR RELIEF

"I doubt whether it is adequately realized by most people," says the Archbishop of Canterbury, "how appalling are the scale and character of the sufferings now being endured by the many hundreds of thousands of refugees, who, out of the horrors of war and fire and pestilence, find themselves in a condition of absolute destitution, complete homelessness, and a large proportion of them, in imminent danger. No contemporary catastrophe has attained such proportions."

**A MESSAGE FROM DR. JAMES L. BARTON,  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, Near East Relief  
(From Lausanne)**

At the Lausanne Conference there is one and only one opinion on the needs of the Armenians, which is, that they must be cared for—orphans and refugees—until they can be settled in a position to care for themselves. Greece, although bankrupt, is overwhelmed with the burden of her own refugees from Asia Minor, Anatolia and Thrace. Even in caring for her own she must have help from without.

Who will make the sacrifice for the Armenians? The remnant of the race is in jeopardy. Even if a National Home should be agreed upon by the Lausanne Peace Conference, their food, clothing and shelter for this winter must come from without, and be provided chiefly from charity.

There are now tens of thousands of them, on the road or huddled in refugee camps. Their chief reliance is upon the generosity of America. Our responsibilities for the orphans cannot be laid aside; new responsibilities cannot be declined.

### A PICTURE OF DEEP DISTRESS

Dr. Lincoln Wirt has just returned from a trip to the Near East. This is his picture of the situation there:

"During the last two months I have been in Hell,—that is, I have been in the Near East. But I have also seen that darkest theatre of man's inhumanity to man shot through with courage and faith and human kindness. I have seen a refinement of cruelty practised openly and widely that would make the story of the Dark Ages read like a Sunday supplement; but I have also seen men die gloriously, fighting to save the honor of women and the lives of little children.

"I have seen camps containing 5,000, 20,000, 50,000 cowering, frightened, cold, half-starved, wretched human beings stripped of wealth and happiness, reduced to the elemental conditions of savagery. I have seen little children dying like flies after the first frost,—180 of them a day. I have seen women—refined Christian women—scores of them, lying on the ground in the rain, giving birth to children, without a curtain, without a blanket, without doctor or nurse.

"I visited the Greek and Armenian refugees huddled in a dozen wretched camps at Piræus. The sight reminded me of the Chicago stock yards. Added to the crowded misery, the cold winter rains had begun. The first camp we came to con-

tained 6,000 people, who had escaped the flames and massacres at Smyrna. They were quartered in what had once been a series of warehouses along the water front. The floors were of dirt, half the walls broken down. The roof was only an apology, through which the rain was admitted through a thousand rents and openings. On the muddy floor sat the refugees in groups so close together that there was not even a passageway. Here was misery to the nth degree. These people had lost everything except the clothes they sat in. Very few had blankets. Some were able to find a piece of reed matting or burlap upon which they could lie. Others were prone upon the wet ground. Half of them had trachoma or conjunctivitis. Half a pound of bread was rationed daily to each person. Water could be found only at a distance. Sanitary conditions are better imagined than described. Through this reeking 'black-hole of Calcutta' I passed, my heart torn to shreds to be forced to believe the unbelievable,—that in this Christian age, human beings, fellow Christians, pro-Allies, those who had every claim of blood, faith and honor upon us, could be left to rot and die in such a place of contagion and human suffering. Women called to us on every side, clinging to our garments, begging that we take away their bread ration and give them blankets instead. For a single person to sit through a long, cold night, with the rain beating in, clad in a thin dress or linen suit, without protection against the bleak, night wind, is a refinement of torture; but to multiply this a hundred thousand times (a million would be nearer to the truth) is to expose our national selfishness, indict our political expediency and tear the veneer from our Christian civilization. During the hour I spent in this inferno I saw three persons die.

"At one place I was struck by the cultured appearance of a gray-haired man and his wife, who sat huddled under a piece of canvas, in what had been an old blacksmith shop. I asked my interpreter if he would get the man's story, but the refugee himself spoke up in excellent English and said he needed no interpreter. And then I learned that he had been a wealthy wholesale merchant in Smyrna; his business and property investments had represented a fortune of half a million dollars. All had been swept away. Their children had been separated from them,—whether still alive or not they could not say. Both this man and his wife were college graduates, had traveled widely, were as sensitive and high-minded as any person who reads these words. Yet here they were, refugees, as empty-handed and almost as naked as the day they were born, sitting on a piece of canvas in the cold rain. Why, I asked myself, and I ask you, why? Has the world lost every sense of shame? Is the age of chivalry entirely past? This aged couple had done no wrong. They stood for the virtues and principles for which we live, and yet they suffer the loss of all things save self-respect. They are but two out of as many millions who had fled or are fleeing from the land which gave them birth, and which gave birth to the religion of Jesus Christ—in defense of which they perish.

"Leaving another camp a woman rushed to our automobile, thrust her thin face under the top, from which the rain was pouring in streams over her bare neck and down her back, clad only in a thin calico slip. She too was speaking English, she too had attended an American school, had been a teacher there, and was now a refugee. She asked nothing for herself, but begged in the name of compassion that some place might be found for her daughter, who at that moment was lying on a piece of matting in the dark corner of a shed, in child-birth.

"So it was all day long, as I passed from one camp of misery to another. There were between 90,000 and 100,000 of these poor wretches, scattered from Athens to Piraeus. And everywhere it was the same cry, blankets, blankets. I saw a woman whose sweet face and white hair reminded me strangely of my mother. I stopped to speak to her. Through an interpreter I asked if she was in special need, what would make her happy. She pointed to the piece of soiled calico over her feet, saying: 'That is all the covering I have at night.' Beneath her was a flour sack. The ground was wet. This dear, old soul with her sweet face and her white hair, was cold, cold with a chilling cold that none of us have ever endured. If I could but give blankets to them all! But it was not my sphere of service to distribute blankets or relief. I was there simply to see and tell the story and yet one would have needed a heart of stone not to have handed that dear old lady the price of a blanket. Did you ever have a saint and martyr kiss your hand? The spot burns yet!

"The thing that seems strangest of all to some of us who have been walking in the trail of the serpent is that the Christian nations of the earth sit supinely by and watch this reign of terror, this defamation of every noble feeling, this flower of Christian civilization tramped upon, spurned and insulted—and do nothing to stop it."

## CABLEGRAMS REVEAL THE NEED

Athens, December 1, 1922.

NearEast NY

30,000 Greek and Armenian refugees are concentrating at Mersine from Konia, Nigde, and Caesarea. There is a huge concentration at Ouloukishla, where the railway refuses to transport any without full payment of fare. Most of the refugees are penniless, having been repeatedly robbed enroute. Throughout the Anatolian villages the Kemalists order for Christians to leave was followed by systematic robbery, and pillaging of all Christian homes and shops. Deaths from starvation, exhaustion, violation and maltreatment are reported from all parts of Asia Minor.

FOWLE.

Aleppo, December 5, 1922.

Vickrey NY

Official report Christian movement from Anatolia through Aleppo totals 40,000, —4,600 last week. 1,000 daily now, many more enroute. All bearing Turkish passport requiring exit via Aleppo only, regardless from Aintab, Smyrna regions or as far as Brusa, gives rise concern here over Turkish purpose concentrating refugees Aleppo.

American Consul is convinced entire movement mainly directed here. Refugees required to pay innumerable taxes before passports granted; unable to sell property because it is checked crossing the frontier; penniless, stripped in the snow en route.

ARCHER.

Geneva, December 9, 1922.

NearEast NY

The Cilician expulsions are pitiless. Daily half-naked caravans from Ourfa, Harpoot, Chermuk, Aintab and elsewhere are arriving Aleppo. Houses at Aintab are stoned nightly. Local Turkish papers declare Aintab Holy Land too good for Christians. Our people are terrified. There is no transportation—Turkish muleteers, and camel drivers refuse to move Armenians goods. Should a Turk secretly purchase from Armenians, Turks beat him.

ROCKWELL.

Constantinople, December 12, 1922.

Vickrey NY

George John Williams Foxburg Pennsylvania died cold exposure Marsovan while evacuating Christian orphans to Black Sea coast. Although suffering hardships rigorous winter weather Williams insisted carrying on fearing every delay endangered lives parentless children entrusted his care. By superhuman efforts had succeeded getting majority his little charges out of Marsovan onto snow covered road for trek to Samsoun when stricken with pneumonia.

JAQUITH.



### III.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE NEAR EAST

### ARMENIAN LOYALTY TO CHRIST

From the dawn of the third century, when the Cappadocian Missionary, Saint Gregory, brought the message of Christianity to Tiridates, King of Armenia, who, with his people, accepted the Christian faith, until the present time, Gregorian Christianity has been one of the great religious forces of Western Asia.

In the awful events of the past few years, these Christian people have drunk to the dregs their cup of suffering and woe. Countless thousands have been offered life for the price of apostasy and have refused. Excruciating tortures have not been able to bring a denial from the lips of Armenian manhood. Young girls have turned away from luxury and comfort and have chosen the way of the cross and the desert. Little children have stood unafraid before their persecutors. *Surely these are of the glorious company of the martyrs.*

They have "had trials of mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover, of bond and imprisonment; they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword, being destitute, afflicted, ill treated, wandering in deserts and mountains and caves in the holes of the earth," whom neither "tribulations nor anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword, have been able to separate from the love of Christ."

### OUR ARMENIAN ALLIES

The Armenians were our valiant allies during the war. They sacrificed an even greater proportion of their people to our common cause than did France.

There were Armenians on all fronts and in Turkey they fought as a nation. They fought Germans and Austrians, they protected the oil wells of the Caucasus, and what they did counted definitely toward the final victory.

The following facts, from statements of the British Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and a group of British statesmen, illustrate the relation of the Armenians to the war:

In the autumn of 1914 the Turks sent emissaries to the National Congress of the Ottoman Armenians then sitting at Erzerum, and made them offers of autonomy if they would actively assist Turkey in the war. The Armenians replied that they would do their duty individually as Ottoman subjects, but that as a nation they could not work for the cause of Turkey and her allies.

From the beginning of the war that half of the Armenian nation which was under the sovereignty of Russia organized volunteer forces (of both Russian and Turkish Armenians) and, under their heroic leader, Andranik, bore the brunt of some of the heaviest fighting in the Caucasian campaigns.

The Russian Armenians gave some 200,000 conscripts to the Russian army, and after the defeat of Enver's invasion in the winter of 1914-15, were acclaimed by all the leading organs of the Russian press as saviours of the Caucasus.

After the breakdown of the Russian army at the end of 1917, these Armenian forces took over the Caucasian front, and for five months delayed the advance of the Turks, thus rendering an important service to the British army.

In 1918, the Armenian National Delegation co-operated with the French Foreign Office in raising a force of Armenian volunteers, called originally "Legion

d'Orient," and later "Legion Armenienne." Under the French officers this legion took part in the Palestine campaign and by its valor and endurance earned tributes from the commander of the French Contingent and from Field Marshal Allenby, the Commander-in-chief.

*As a result of their refusal to assist Turkey, a million Armenians were deported, and some 700,000—men, women and children alike—were exterminated in the early days of the war. Those who escaped have been ever since in constant imminent danger of death by starvation, and at the present time they are threatened with complete destruction.*

## ARMENIAN CHARACTERISTICS

*The Armenians are our own kin.* Although they have been in Asia Minor for 2,000 years they are of the Indo-European race. They are a people who had attained the highest civilization when our land was covered with forests and when the greater part of Europe was barbarian.

*The Armenians are without a peer for the tenacity of their religious faith,* and their sincerity in the observance of it. They are not a feeble folk, willing to subsist on charity.

Whenever America has been able to stretch forth her hands and give assistance to these starving people, their worthiness has been evidenced by the alacrity with which they throw themselves into manual training, reconstruction, any kind of work.

*Even in the present refugee crisis, the characteristic industry of the Armenians crops out.* Gordon Berry, who has been making a survey of the refugee cities which are springing up everywhere on the shores of Greece, says: "The past few days I have visited refugees through the Athens district. Near Phaleron is rising overnight an Armenian refugee city of mud houses; its population today is two thousand. With typical energy they were no sooner assigned places on this mud flat beneath the shadow of the Acropolis than every woman and their few men-folk turned to molding bricks from mud, laying them in the sun to dry, and laying out a city of homes, stores, schools and churches. An Armenian woman told me today, with pride and happiness, that eight thousand mud bricks were promised by various villagers for the erection of a school for which a refugee teacher was already available."

*The Armenians have shown themselves particularly sensitive to the influence of American public opinion.* Inquiry will show that there is hardly any race of immigrants in America which more quickly develops a high regard for honesty. The Armenian race is easily assimilated into American life, and stands high with regard to morality and public spirit.

Those who have observed the Armenians, both in Turkey and America, those who have had personal dealings and personal friendships with them, agree in saying that they have great native ability, constructive genius, and are singularly dependable. In the Orient the Turks have singled out the Armenians for places of trust where finances were involved.

*In their own land they respond to ideals of honesty with remarkable readiness and the Christianity which they profess has in its system the possibility of setting morality at the very forefront of its teachings.* This last point is almost enough by itself to determine the possibility of building up a stable nation if the people are given political independence and freedom from oppression.

## THE GREEKS

There is little left of "the glory that was Greece"—yet the Greeks of today have shown a splendid spirit of charity and fellowship in throwing open their ports to the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Asia Minor and Thrace who were forced to flee before the conquering Turks.

The unselfishness of the Greek people, in thus giving harbor to their unfortunate allies is the better appreciated when one realizes that Greece has lost not only practically all of its ancient civilization, but that, as a nation, it is in a woful condition financially and almost without resources.

"Greece's currency today exchanges at a rate which approaches that of Germany and Austria," says Lawrence Henry Baker in "The Modern Greeks at Close Range," in the *American Review of Reviews* for November, 1922. "But these two countries are perhaps in the final analysis better off than she is. They have within their boundaries extensive natural resources; whereas Greece today—just as she was in the time of Thucydides, if not more so—is largely dependent upon the outside world for support. Greece possesses no great mineral wealth; her agricultural products, while yielding some for exportation, are scarcely sufficiently diversified to feed the country; and the famous Attic plain, in the light of modern finance, is a poetic rather than a commercial entity."

Yet with all these signs of weakness and degeneration, we have today the spectacle of Greece as one vast haven of refuge. Refugee cities are springing up in the shadow of the Acropolis, amid the ruins of the greatest plastic art the world has ever known; refugees are quartered in the velvet-lined boxes of the municipal opera house in Athens. Surely there remains some heroism, some glory of spirit in this land.

### THE SYRIANS

Syria, the cradle of modern civilization, has for years, with the exception of brief intervals, been part of the Ottoman Empire, and subject to the oppression and retardation that have always been the lot of lands under the rule of the Turk. But on Christmas Day, 1917, that rule was broken, and the country is now open to Western influence and Western development.

Like all the little war-swept nations, Palestine and Syria have suffered greatly during the last seven years. Rich in resources, almost literally a land flowing with milk and honey, the Holy Land has developed little since Bible days. Up to the time Near East Relief began operations in this territory, the people tended their flocks and herds and tilled their fields much as they did 1900 years ago.

### THE PERSIANS

Christian missionary work has been carried on extensively in Persia for about ninety years, although this work suffered serious backsets during the world war, the great missionary center at Urumia having been practically destroyed. The country also suffered great loss of life and property and the practical loss of foreign trade during the war. Of recent years the Near East Relief has established centers for agricultural training, orphan relief, and general repatriation at Hamadan, Sennah, and Kermanshah.

Great Persian names, which stand forth boldly from the pages of ancient history and the Old Testament, include those of Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes, and Artaxerxes. In literature the country is immortalized by the names of Omar Khayyam, Sadi, Hafiz, and Firdusi. In art and art products of certain kinds—such as rugs, silks, needlework, filigree silver, and decorations in brass and copper—Persia has never been excelled.

### THE ASSYRIANS

When the crash of war descended on Assyria the little nation numbered about 200,000 souls. Battle, murder and sudden death have reduced those numbers more than one-half. After defeating the Turks in fourteen engagements the Assyrian army found itself almost without provisions, entirely without ammunition. The only resort was flight. Some eighty thousand men, women and children struggled across the desert from Urumia to Hamadan, suffering from thirst and hunger and fatigue, and serving as the target of Turkish and Kurdish sharpshooters. Those who stayed behind went through terrible massacres in Urumia. Exposure and privation killed others. The remnants of this ancient people were scattered now through Mesopotamia, Persia, and Russia, but many are returning. The only chance for repatriation is through the agency of Near East Relief, for the British assistance in Mesopotamia has ceased.

## IV.

# A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

In our appeal for our Christian brethren of the Near East, we are supported by a great cloud of witnesses. In this company are many who have been overseas and who have seen this work at first hand. They all with one accord testify to the great need, the efficiency of the organization through which America is working to respond to this need, and the grateful spirit of the Christian minorities who are being saved from death, and worse, by our American sympathy and American funds.

## RECENT EYE-WITNESSES

### "FOR LOVE'S SAKE ALONE"

Dr. Robert E. Speer, President of the Federal Council of Churches, on a missionary tour for the Presbyterian Church:

"We cannot speak too warmly of what we saw of the Near East Relief work.

(1) It is doing a great work of *human salvage*. It keeps alive thousands of adult people who otherwise would have died, and it has rescued tens of thousands of children who will live to redeem the waste places and to rebuild the ruins in the Near East.

(2) *It has lifted the name of America* to a unique place in the respect and affection of the people of all races in Turkey and Persia and Russia. We were charged with innumerable messages of gratitude to the American people from the Greek Patriarch in Constantinople, the Armenian Catholics in Etchmiadzin, other ecclesiastics, Persian political officials, and hundreds of the people to whom the American Relief has been their only friend and hope.

(3) We were impressed by the *unity and the economy of the relief work* in the Caucasus. It was gratifying to see the spirit of co-operation and loyalty which animated it. And I doubt whether any great relief undertaking has ever been carried through with a larger measure of efficiency and frugality.

(4) No doubt there is much in our national life to justify the charge of selfishness and commercialism, but *in a work like this one rejoices to believe that our country is engaged in a great and loving deed for love's sake alone* and that amid the many judgments that await her, whether of sorrow or of joy, she will not fail some day to hear a Voice saying to her, *'I was naked and ye clothed me; I was hungry and ye fed me; I was a stranger and ye took me in.'*"

## A RACE REBORN

Dr. W. C. Emhardt, Special Representative of the Protestant Episcopal Church to the Near East:

### *Remaking a Nation:*

"There is a glorious opportunity for service to humanity if America has the vision and the courage to undertake a big job. Patient and long-suffering, though the passing generation of Armenians have been, they have lacked capacity for leadership, or for united effort. To develop these qualities a new type must be created. That this is possible is seen by the encouraging results in such a demonstration center as Alexandropol in Armenia. Here a group of 17,000 orphans is being trained as a unit in the way of modern civilization.

### *Encouraging Outlook:*

"In this center in less than a year it has been clearly proved that under proper training, characteristics of the Armenian race which have been suppressed for years by persecution, come at once to the surface, and that even in children we see developing capacity for leadership and team play. The contrast between the waif

by the wayside, and the child of but a few months' stay in the orphanage is startling. This constant appeal year after year for starving Armenia is only warranted if we are going to make something out of the race of children we have saved. In ten years a new Armenian race can be formed at a rapidly decreasing expense, as the children develop in agricultural skill and efficiency."

### INVESTING IN CHARACTER

**Dr. Karl K. Quimby**, Pastor, Roseville Methodist Episcopal Church, New Jersey:

Never in my life have I seen a more enthusiastic or capable group of workers. Most of these men and women are among our cultured and fine college trained people. They possess rich and sympathetic personalities and retain a wholesome outlook on life. The Near East Relief orphanages are doing for the children what a home should do. The elementary duties of life are taught and character definitely shaped after the Christian ideal. Instead of mere relief stations I found in successful operation wisely worked out programs of academic education, industrial education and recreation. Such programs are prophetic of future citizens of no mean sort. Investing in the work of Near East Relief is investing in character. Our missionary opportunity in this area is without parallel in the history of Christian missions. To bring to maturity in the next fifteen years a hundred thousand young people whose hearts are filled with Christian hopes and dreams is to lay securely the foundation for the Kingdom of God in this too long backward part of the world. I regard it as the greatest missionary challenge of a century.

### A WISE SOLUTION

**Dr. Henry Allen Tupper**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.:

*First*, the work is of wide extent. It is reaching at present more than one hundred thousand children, and I found that it was an established fact that at least one million persons are now living who would have died had it not been for the work of this great institution.

*Second*, the work is not merely to feed these people; their self-support is not only encouraged but is insisted upon.

*Third*, it was gratifying to know that in Constantinople the Armenians were giving dollar for dollar to the work of relief and development of these young people, and in the Republic of Armenia the Armenians and others are giving large tracts of land and buildings to further the work of Near East Relief.

*Fourth*, *No denomination of Christians or single church can possibly do this great work. It compasses persons of all creeds, conditions and colors and appeals to the widest philanthropic spirit.* Indeed, this work seems to be as broad as the needs of humanity in the Near East and is as deep and loving as the heart of God.

*Fifth*, I cannot say too much in praise of the personnel connected with Near East Relief. The men and women in America and on the field beyond the seas are not only persons of great energy, activity and practical ability but are persons of the deepest consecration and are giving their best thought and holiest affection to this Christly service.

*Sixth*, while America has given its millions to this work during the last few years the demands are greater at this time than ever before.

*Seventh*, after visiting parts of four continents and especially studying the needs of these people in Turkey, Syria, Palestine and Egypt, I returned home impressed by the burning conviction that the call for American help is a Divine call, and that the hope of the world is largely centered in the quick and sacrificial response that must come from America.

I have found no institution that is giving a wiser solution to the grave and important immigration question than Near East Relief.

### THE WORLD'S MOST URGENT NEED

**Rabbi Lyons**, Brooklyn, N. Y.:

My observations in the Near East have convinced me that nowhere in the world is there a more urgent need—and nowhere a charity more efficiently handled than that of the Near East Relief.

Every American of any denomination or no denomination, should by virtue of his religion and his Americanism back Near East Relief. It is an opportunity for

an exemplification of that brotherliness which is the highest consummation of religion and is at the present time the world's most urgent need.

### THE DEFENDER OF CHRISTIANITY

Herbert Adams Gibbons, Professor Princeton University:

"The completeness of the disaster that has befallen Christianity in the lands of its birth is not realized by church people in America. Despite sectarian differences the Christian church is one great organism, and it is impossible for calamity to fall upon the church in one part of the world without affecting the church everywhere. Just when the church, Catholic and Protestant, was making its greatest and most successful effort in the conversion of the world the mad lust for world power precipitated a war, the result of which has been the loss of millions of lives of Christians in the Near East.

"Keeping alive the remnants of Christian peoples who have been expelled from Asia Minor, Constantinople and Thrace by the victorious Turks, is not only humanitarian. It is a duty that the elementary principles of strategy impose upon militant Christianity.

"At this awful moment Near East Relief stands as the defender of our common Christianity, and its work should be supported—at a cost of no matter how great sacrifices—by Protestant and Catholic alike throughout the United States."

### COURAGE OF AMERICAN WOMEN WORKERS

W. A. Lloyd, Australian Journalist, (New York Times, Dec. 17, 1922):

I have had some experience in organizing, but I have never seen anything to equal the work of the American Near East Relief in troubled Turkey.

It is that rarity—a combination of idealism and common sense. It is getting the utmost value out of every dollar spent. The devotion and self-sacrifice of its army of workers are beyond all praise. Literally, tens of thousands of men, women and children have been saved from death, and worse than death, by its efforts. What has struck me most forcibly, as a foreigner, is the extraordinary self-reliance and courage of the American women workers in the Near East Relief. When some of my American friends tell me that America is going rapidly to the bow-wows I think of the many American women I have met in Turkey, in Asia Minor, in Armenia and Thrace—of what they have done and are doing, and I have no fears for the future of America. In the inhospitable interior of Asia Minor, amid a hostile or sullen population, I have seen American women calmly going about their business of collecting the poor little orphans as though it was the most natural thing in the world for them to do. I have seen them distributing food and clothing, literally bringing life and hope to tens of thousands who have despaired of life, and long ago lost all hope. And amid all the misery and horror that is in Turkey today I have thanked God many times for American womanhood.

### THEY SEEMED SPECTRES

Paxton Hibben, F. R. G. S. (in Leslie's Weekly):

"When I stepped off the train at Alexandropol, Armenia, I had to push my way through a crowd of refugees lining the platform of the station. There were among them hundreds of children quite naked, who clawed at my clothes and begged for bread, not in the sing-song of the professional child-beggar of Eastern cities, but with a desperate insistence, a sort of sobbing, half-mad chatter, with the words 'hunger' and 'bread' tumbling over one another, with no sense in it all. The grown people were silent, staring ahead of them with vacant eyes. What they wore was not clothing, but rags pieced together with bits of old sacking, disintegrating remnants of sheepskin and odds and ends like the filthy trove of garbage cans and back lots. And with that, they were half naked, barefoot, and with their unkempt hair and incredible emaciation, they seemed spectres from some drawing by Gustave Dore."

## OTHER AMERICAN CHURCH LEADERS

### "THAT YOU MAY IN TURN BE BLEST"

**Bishop William T. Manning**, Bishop of New York:

"I most earnestly appeal to the people of America's churches and especially to Episcopalians whose representative I am on the Near East Committee, to enlist without hesitation in the great humanitarian work of succoring those unhappy exiled Christians. Do not fail the representatives of American philanthropy when they are in dire need of your support and your money. Give, that you may help avert unbearable suffering. Give, that you may in turn be blest."

### "A SOLEMN CHARGE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN"

**Dr. William Hiram Foulkes**, General Secretary New Era Movement, Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.:

"Near East Relief has already been formally and frequently approved by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. What is more significant, however, is that it has been approved by the conscience and Christian devotion of Presbyterians everywhere. The urgent emergencies for whose relief Near East has been incorporated are a solemn charge upon the responsibility and support of every professing Christian. The New Era Movement, including representatives of Presbyterian Boards and Agencies, is whole-heartedly co-operating with Near East Relief in such detailed ways as loyalty and the approved budget system of the Church make possible."

### SHALL WE SEE IT THROUGH?

**Dr. John M. Moore**, Chairman Near East Relief Advisory Committee, Northern Baptist Convention:

How can we fail to be stirred by conditions in the Near East? What are we doing to lift the burden from these people? It is not a matter of a month or two nor even of a year or two. There must be the forward look, the training for self-support, the re-establishment of the home life, the furnishing of means of agricultural work and the instruction in methods of modern agriculture as they will best meet the needs in their country.

### ARE THEY WORTH SAVING?

**Dr. W. Edward Raffety**, Editor-in-Chief American Baptist Publication Society:

I covet for every pastor in America the experience which has been mine to know the Armenian people firsthand in their own cities and villages. While in Armenia three years ago I met Levon N. Boshgeznian in his home town, Aintab, in Cilicia, Asia Minor. A year later he came to America and has made his home with us. In June last he was graduated from Boston University. His own personal suffering and his agonizing for his Christian comrades has gripped our hearts.

### PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

**Dr. L. W. McCreary**, Executive Secretary Baltimore Federation of Churches, stopping at Near East ports during a vacation tour:

The most interesting part of our visit to Constantinople was the privilege afforded of seeing some of the work of the Near East Relief. We visited four of the twenty-eight hospitals and orphanages maintained by this organization in the city.

Moving on to Beirut, where some 4000 refugees were living in tents, we were driven thirty-five miles along the Mediterranean to Jebail, in the Lebanon Mountains. Here we saw 1500 orphan children cared for by Christian philanthropy. Our hearts were touched as we saw these children march in to the great dormitories, where meals were provided, and stand in line to sing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

More than 100,000 children are now being cared for through the generosity of the American people.

**CANNOT EXAGGERATE THE NEED**

**Dr. Charles H. Boynton**, General Theological Seminary, Chelsea Square, New York City:

I returned from an extended study of conditions in the Near East with the conviction that the need among those stricken people is greater than has been described and greater than we Americans realize. And a second conviction, equally strong, was that the Near East Relief Committee is most efficiently organized and managed to meet the need.

**THE FUTURE OF SYRIA**

**Dr. William H. Hudnut**, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, Ohio:

I have never seen a finer piece of work than that which the Near East Relief is doing for the children of Syria. There has been placed into the hands of Near East Relief the opportunity for the training of the future leadership of Syria. It impresses me as one of the biggest pieces of constructive work that is being done in the world today.

**HAPPY TO GIVE**

**Dr. Charles R. Brown**, Divinity School, Yale University:  
I believe in the Near East and am happy to give to it.

**CIRCULARS TOO MODEST**

**Dr. Henry A. Stimson**, Pastor Emeritus, Manhattan Congregational Church, N. Y. C.:

What can a man say when he has been choked with repressed feeling over the situation in Asia Minor? Your circulars state the facts definitely, but, I fear, all too modestly. Is not the long and bitter suffering of the war going to arouse Christendom to some sense of individual responsibility and to "deeds worthy of repentance?"

**WANDERERS AND EXILES**

**Dr. Charles F. Thwing**, President-Emeritus, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Chairman Near East Relief Committee, Ohio.

In Asia Minor there are now hundreds of thousands of suffering ones. They are hungry, cold and almost naked. Some are dying. Their homes are broken. Wives and husbands are separated. Children are made orphans. They are wanderers and exiles in the land of their birth. Your sympathy spells salvation.

**EXILED!**

**Dr. John Timothy Stone**, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois:

We should let the people know of the refugees who are facing, without food or shelter, the deprivations of the coming winter. We cannot realize what it means for two and a half million people to be threatened with exile. I am glad that the churches of our own denomination are to take an offering on January 21 for this important work.

**Rt. Rev. C. H. Brent**, Bishop of Western New York:

You are quite at liberty to use my name in connection with Near East Relief and quote me as being in hearty support.

**John T. Axton**, Colonel U. S. Army, Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D. C.:

You certainly have the sympathy and should have the tangible support of the best people of this country, to the end that immediate relief may be afforded those who are in such dire distress.



**AMERICA CONSTRUCTIVELY HELPING THE NEAR EAST**

**Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 1st, 1922:**

Whatever policy the American Government may pursue in the Near East, it is good to know that the American people are not wholly unrepresented there. During five years the American Near East Relief has instituted a constructive program in this part of the world which not only placed it in a position to carry forward extensive work among the refugees of the recent disaster at Smyrna, but is enabling it to have a large share in the wise rebuilding of a territory which, for many years, has been obliged to submit to frequent over-running by the Turks.

It is in the industrial work and the work among children that one finds the most significant evidence of the statesmanship that guides this organization. Among other things, there is an extensive agricultural program.

In lieu of active governmental participation in Near Eastern affairs, the American people owe a real debt to the directors of the Near East Relief for providing a channel through which they can support these measures of reconstruction. And throughout the Near East America is thus enabled, in some degree, to maintain its position of unselfish helpfulness.

**NEAR EAST LEADERS**

Without visiting the Near East, it is not possible for an American to realize, even faintly, the respect, faith, and affection with which our country is regarded throughout that region. Whether it is due to the world-wide reputation which we enjoy for fair play—a tribute, perhaps, to the crusading spirit which carried us into the great war, not untinged with the hope that the same spirit may urge us into a solution of problems growing out of the conflict—or whether because of our unselfish and impartial missionary influence exerted for a century, faith in America is the one faith which is held alike by Christian and Moslem, Jew and Gentile, prince and peasant, in the Near East.

**Meletios, Patriarch of Constantinople:**

"For all that America has done for the Eastern Christians we thank you. In the name of the Greek Christians we express our gratitude to the United States, and especially to the Near East Relief, for assistance to the refugees of Smyrna. This help is as the myrrh and spices and the clean shroud which Joseph and Nicodemus furnished for the burial of our Lord, for it is indeed the Christianity of Asia Minor which has been entombed."

**Representatives from the Greek Ecumenical Patriarchate:**

"The Ecumenical Patriarchate see with attention and esteem the work of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East.

"Since the war and during the armistice this poor part of the world is undergoing many misfortunes because of the oppressions and persecutions.

"Without distinction of race and religion, your Committee is extending its philanthropic work, not only in Constantinople and the Marmora Sea, but all through Asia Minor up to the Black Sea."

**Zaven, Armenian Patriarch, Constantinople, to Americans departing on the "Empress of Scotland":**

"As you travel to happier, sunnier lands, and to your own dear land, America, I hope you will carry in your hearts the love which my children of the Near East feel for America and Americans.

"Daily the American Near East Relief workers are rescuing children from the streets. The problem is growing too great to meet. I therefore make the great appeal for the children. We older people have lived our lives—the children are

the future citizens. If we cannot help all, I make the appeal for the children which America has saved and is saving through Near East Relief."

**George the Fifth**, Head of all the Armenian Churches.

In August, 1921, *George the Fifth, the Head of all the Armenian Churches*, delivered this message to the Near East Relief Commission, which was visiting the Near East:

"Tell the churches of America and the good people of your country that they have saved my nation from perishing off the face of the earth."

**Father D. Galadootzian**, Representative of Catholic Armenians in Caucasus.

*Catholic Armenians*: (a) "Everybody, especially every individual Armenian, knows that but for American Relief the Armenians would be annihilated by sickness and famine.

(b) "It is a well-known fact that the famine and epidemics are still troubling the Armenian refugees, women and children.

(c) "I am sure that the Catholic Americans also together with all Americans will continue to send relief to our poverty stricken people, through the well-known and splendidly organized Near East Relief."

**Professor Hitti**, American Citizen, Resident of Syria:

"I take this opportunity to convey to you the sentiment of the people in this part of the world regarding the superb work which Mr. Bayard Dodge has been carrying on. There are thousands of people who literally owe their lives to the humane efforts of this young man. During the four years of war, distress, and agony he acted the part of an angel of mercy and brought succor and relief to the thousands of children of Lebanon."

**Former Queen of Greece**:

"In response to the special appeal made by Mrs. Harding in the New York Times of May 31st, I am desired by H. M., the Queen of Greece, to herewith forward a further donation towards this noble work of the Near East Relief.

"Whilst recently in Salonica, Her Majesty witnessed some of the excellent results achieved there by this organization."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) AGELIGNE J. CONSTOSTAVLOS

**Former Acting President of Armenia.**

*Mr. A. Karinian, formerly Minister of Justice and one time Acting President of the present Armenian government*: "In the most difficult moments, when Armenia was left quite helpless, when there did not remain in the country any charitable organizations, either Armenian or any other, the representatives of Near East Relief with devoted heart and soul religiously cared for the Armenian orphans in Alexandropol and other districts. In the most distant points of Armenia, in the huts belonging to the peasants, on the peaks of the snowy mountains and in the deep valleys, there are Armenian villages which profoundly appreciate the very name of the American people. There is nobody in our mother country who could be unconscious of the high value and importance of their help. The gratitude of all classes is most pronounced and heartening."

**Armenian National Assembly.**

In the *Assembly of the Armenian National Representatives*, held on the 28th of January, 1921, following a motion presented by Mr. S. Dionian, a Member of the Assembly, unanimously the 87 members present stood up and respectfully heard the prayer calling God's blessing on the American Near East Relief, which was said by His Beatitude, the Armenian Patriarch, Monseigneur Zaven, His Grace Monseigneur Sayeghian, Locum Tenens of the Roman Catholic Armenian Patriarch, and Reverend Bezdjian, Head of the Armenian Evangelical Church, who were presiding at the Assembly.

Z. A. BEZDJIAN

## V.

# THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR PROTECTION

## SOUNDING THE "JUSTICE" NOTE POSITION OF NEAR EAST RELIEF

The Near East Relief is not a political organization. It has never been partisan in any way. But the Committee is tremendously interested in the saving of the non-Moslem peoples of the Near East from extinction. It believes in *prevention* as well as in *relief*.

The Near East Relief assumes no responsibility for the statements that follow. They are acts and pronouncements of societies and individuals deeply interested in the solution of the problem of justice to the non-Moslems of the Near East. This material is given here in order that pastors may have at hand a few statements of fact.

A number of organizations have been interested in the promotion of this cause. The leader in this promotion is the *Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America*. This organization has sent two letters to the pastors of the country urging that they memorialize the government with respect to saving the Christians of the Near East and it called a conference in New York, November 8, to consider frankly the question of minorities.

The Armenia-America Society, the Justice to Armenia and the Armenian Rights Societies are working quietly but effectively to educate the people of the country to the need for protection.

## PRONOUNCEMENTS BY DENOMINATIONS

Definite action petitioning the government to take some action to assist in the protection of non-Moslems of the Near East has been taken by the following conventions: Southern Methodist General Conference, Southern Baptist and Northern Baptist Conventions, Presbyterian U. S. A. and United Presbyterian Assemblies, Church of the Brethren, Church of God, Disciples of Christ, Protestant Episcopal and Christian Conventions. We will furnish these on request.

The following action was taken by the Federal Council Executive Committee at Indianapolis December 15, 1922:

### Action of Federal Council Executive Committee:

We are heartened by the position which our Government has taken toward the problem of the relief of the unprotected and persecuted non-Moslem populations of the Near East. We have heard with great satisfaction recently of the position taken by Ambassador Child at the Lausanne Conference in urging the protection of the Christian Minorities and a National Home for the Armenians.

There are signs of a more temperate attitude on the part of the Turkish Nationalists. However, justice can hardly be said to be the ruling principle of Near East government. There must be ceaseless interest, vigilance and activity until the unspeakable horrors of deportations, massacre, and starvation cease.

Important as is the question of temporary relief for the refugees from Turkish rule, still more important is the protection of Christian minorities in the Near East. They must be freed from religious persecution and must be given unhindered opportunity for economic rehabilitation. A large factor in the solution of these human problems is the co-operation of the United States with other nations not only in securing guarantees for justice but in seeing that these guarantees are carried out.

There is an increasing disposition to support our Government in whatever co-operative relationships it may assume for the Near East. However, there is not up to this time a sufficiently intense conviction as to vital necessity or as to feasible policies which make our Government feel that it should and must take decisive action. Apparently the Government awaits a mandate from the American people. We urge

the Churches to give earnest consideration to these questions, and to assume leadership in developing a public conscience which will support our Government in taking active measures for a permanent solution of the Near Eastern question.

### STATEMENTS BY CHURCH LEADERS

Many individual leaders have raised their voices against an attitude of indifference or timidity. Among them are Dr. Robert E. Speer, President of the Federal Council of Churches, Dr. John Finley, Mr. Morgenthau, Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Southern Methodist Church, Dr. Barton, Dr. Stanley White, Mr. Walter George Smith, Bishop Brent, Bishop Manning, Dr. Charles Macfarland, Dr. Henry Atkinson of the Church Peace Union, most of the editors of religious periodicals and many other national figures.

From many statements upon this theme the following are culled:

**Alva W. Taylor**, Secretary Social Service Commission, Disciples of Christ:

No appeal to humanity in Christian history surpasses in pathos and human need that of the Near East today. Not since the conquest of the Huns in the middle ages has anything so barbarous been done. Two and one-half million innocent human beings are turned out of home and livelihood in the face of winter. One million have been massacred. Let us make conscription of all our Christian forces to meet this need.

**Dr. John Kelman**, Pastor Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church, New York City:

There is one thing America should fear more than "entangling alliances," and that is "entangling avoidances."

**Bishop Manning**, Bishop of New York:

While America has no desire for another war, the fact does not free the United States from the responsibility to protect people who are likely to be murdered.

**Dr. F. W. Burnham**, President United Christian Missionary Society:

Magnificent as is the service being rendered to orphan children and destitute people, no one of us can fail to hope that this expression of Christian sympathy by the churches may yet lead America as a nation to assuming her full duty in international relations, which shall in the near future prevent the recurrence of conditions which have brought about this need.

**Dr. Samuel Zane Batten, D.D.** Dept. of Social Education, American Baptist Publication Society, Member of Northern Baptist Advisory Committee:

Shall we continue to stand by supinely while millions are slaughtered or starved and driven from their homes? Are we too selfish, too provincial, too weak, too distrustful of ourselves to accept our share of the world's struggle for justice, security and life? Let us support most heartily Near East Relief; then let us insist that our nation bear its share of the world's fight for justice.

**Dr. James L. Barton** (from Lausanne):

Our souls cry out against the act that is driving a race out of its ancestral home which it has occupied for twenty-five centuries.

**Dr. W. W. Pect.** Cablegram from Constantinople:

Nationalists should not be allowed to drop these people thus upon doorstep of world. Asia Minor can support millions more than she has now if only adequate safety provided. America must join nations of the world to prevent this evacuation which would mean unprecedented misery starvation death to entire Near East.

### "THE PLEAS OF THE PATRIARCHS"

**From Statement by Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:**

I have had many interviews, some of them with very interesting and very distinguished people, but none of them stand out more vividly than those which I

had in September with the Greek and the Armenian Patriarchs in their official residences in Constantinople. I have decided to let these fathers of their people speak in their own words.

"The divisions among the Christian nations are giving the Turks new life and hope," said the Patriarch of Constantinople. "Great Britain seems to be the only nation which realizes the real situation. If Great Britain should fail to check the Turkish advance, it will be a lasting disgrace to Europe, and even to America, that no nation gave Great Britain co-operation to prevent continued Turkish atrocities. If the American Government thought it to be its duty to intervene to make the world safe for democracy against the assaults of Germany and to uphold the ideals on which the United States Government is based, why should she not consider it her duty to continue to uphold the same ideals, and to prevent these awful crimes against humanity, to say nothing of democracy? All the Eastern Christians look up to the United States, and it is hard to understand her refusal to take action to protect the innocent and helpless from outrage and slaughter. It is believed by our people that the United States could prevent the atrocities if she declared positively that they must cease."

And then the Patriarch, with the same feeling which a father would show for his own children, said:

"What can be done to save my poor, despairing, dying people? We must appeal to your people to save them from starvation, disease and death. God has blessed you with food and clothing, and you have big hearts. Take your people our thanks, but ask them to continue to help us in this day of death."

I told the Patriarch that I would convey his appeal to our people, and furthermore stated that if I had the power I would call upon the manhood of my country to protect them from persecution and extermination.

The Armenian Patriarch said, "There were nearly four million Armenians before the war began; now there are less than two million."

I asked why the Turks killed the Armenians, and he replied:

"Because the Armenians are Christians, but also because the Turks are jealous of the Armenians; they are more intelligent, they have better schools, and are better educated. There are about five Turks to one hundred Armenians in school. Also the bulk of the commerce and business generally is carried on by the Armenians. The Turks hate the Armenians because they are Christians, are better educated, and are better business men. Jealousy and religious hatred are the causes of the massacres."

"The Armenians can never forget what the Near East Relief has done for them. The children would all be dead had it not been for you. Now they have performed a miracle by getting hold of all these children and saving them, and we owe everything to the Americans. We want a country where we can live and grow in peace and support ourselves. We do not want to live as we have to now—as paupers, as beggars, by being helped. We want to have a chance to help ourselves. Now every day the situation is growing worse—the misery is augmenting every day. Although the Armenians recognize all that America has done for them, they hope that they will not now be allowed to die while America is aiding the children. They beg that the Turks may not be allowed to massacre all the older ones in the meanwhile. America is far away, and her interest in this country is purely an interest in humanity. Every other country in Europe has political interests, and for that reason we beg America to protect us from destruction. Her human interest would save every one if she would enter into the situation and not only feed the hungry, but save the rest of us from outrage, torture and death at the hands of the Turks."

## VI.

# THE NEAR EAST RELIEF ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM

## ITS CHRISTIAN ORIGIN AND SPIRIT

*Near East Relief is in its essence a Christian organization.* Its birth was through Christian leadership. The leaders of Missionary and Christian Educational institutions working in the Near East organized the movement. Its General Secretary and many of its earlier associates were men of the Layman's Missionary Movement training. The Christian spirit thus emphasized in the very inception of Near East Relief still characterizes all the work of the organization.

While a Christian organization, *Near East Relief has the support of all kinds of organizations* for it deals with a humanitarian problem which is of interest to everyone.

It is interesting to know that it has members of the Jewish faith on its Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, in its oversea orphanages, and many Jewish contributors help maintain it.

The organization, however, is essentially Christian. It is not organically connected with any church organization. It requires no creed of its personnel. It is recognized by people of all denominational affiliations.

*It is a comprehensive Christian work.* It is Christian in the sense that it keeps people alive. It follows largely the command of Jesus to feed the hungry, and to clothe the naked. It saves those who would perish because of their Christian faith. It carries the burden of national salvage sacrificially. It toils unceasingly to preserve ancient and historic Christian races.

*It is Christian because its personnel* both at home and overseas have the spirit of self-sacrifice, work for service salaries, and give a devotion not excelled in any field of service.

*It is Christian because prayer,* the devotional spirit, is as common in the Executive Committee meeting, State and Regional conferences, and Staff meetings, as it is in the meetings of a Missionary Board.

*It is Christian because it values human life;* values the sacrifice represented in the dollars given to it; regards the trust as sacred, and uses every art at its command to secure as much as possible for the money it receives.

*It is Christian because it provides that the children under its care are trained* to physical strength, independence of spirit, self-support through vocational pursuits, manliness, honesty and honor, team-work, sobriety and self-control, absence of racial and religious hatreds, the responsibility of the strong, and a complete self-expression in worship after the manner of their parents.

The organization is not denominational, nor does it represent the spirit of any one or two denominations. In one sense the work may be termed "denominational" by churchmen, namely, because it is the expression of their denomination or communion in undenominational work.

## EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY OF ADMINISTRATION

The economy of administration of Near East Relief is due in a large measure to the exceptional amount of volunteer unpaid service contributed both overseas and in America. All members of the governing Administrative Committees overseas contribute their services without compensation. Wherever it is necessary to provide compensation in order to command the full-time service of orphanage directors, doctors, nurses or other administrators, the stipend is fixed on a purely social service basis designed to cover only reasonable living expenses. No large salaries, or salaries in excess of a moderate living rate, are paid by Near East Relief, either in America or overseas, and such moderate salaries as are paid for general administrative work are more than covered by special contributions designated by the donors for this item of necessary expense.

The following quotations, from the printed rules of the Personnel Committee, will suggest the type and the motive of the Near East Relief worker:

"Near East Relief gives boundless opportunities for unselfish service both at home and abroad, and will appeal permanently only to those workers who have clearly come to the conclusion that they are in this world for what they can give and not for what they can get.

"Anyone who has for a life purpose the achievement of success in terms of dollars or material advancement will not be satisfied with such opportunities as Near East Relief can offer.

"It is the purpose of the Committee to provide enough to cover necessary living expenses, with reasonable consideration of life insurance and other contingencies. Near East Relief work, therefore, will not appeal to anyone whose major consideration is salary. It will appeal strongly to anyone whose major purpose is service."

In addition to the so-called paid workers, doctors, nurses, etc., overseas, Near East Relief has the co-operation of a considerable number of volunteer workers connected with various American educational and other institutions in the Near East who are contributing their services in various forms of relief work without expense of any kind to relief funds.

Expense of administration is greatly reduced by the free use of extremely valuable lands, buildings, and other properties overseas, and by the voluntary service of many people irrespective of race and creed. For example, at Alexandropol we have the free use of three groups of extensive barrack buildings conservatively valued at over five million dollars. In Armenia some 17,600 acres of wheat, vegetable and pasture lands have been made available without cost, to be used in developing agriculture and self-support for our orphanages. Elsewhere in Armenia, at Constantinople and various places throughout Anatolia, Syria and Persia, we have the free use of properties and equipment which, if rent were paid, would cost more than one million dollars per annum.

The above does not include any commercial valuation of the large amount of volunteer unpaid service received in overseas administration.

This co-operation comes not only from Governments, but from the various native churches and communities, the American missionary and educational institutions, and many individuals who are thus ready unmistakably to endorse and support the work.

No less important than the volunteer, unpaid co-operation received overseas is the volunteer service rendered by thousands of devoted friends serving on committees in America. It is the volunteer service of these committeemen that has made possible the life-saving achievements of Near East Relief.

### CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

Near East Relief is non-political and non-sectarian, as a reference to the *names of its trustees (page 2) will indicate.*

Relief is administered on the basis of *the greatest need to all suffering and helpless people of the Near East, regardless of race or creed or nationality.*

### Auditors' Reports

As stated in last year's Report to Congress for the period ending December 31, 1920, the firm of Hurdman & Cranstoun audited all the war or post-war transactions of our Committee in the Near East covering the Constantinople, Caucasus and Syria areas. A full report of their audit in the form of a 386-page bound volume of tabulated statements was received during the past year. This report, together with subsequent and supplementary reports of the New York Office accounts, has been reviewed by both the Finance and Executive Committees, and submitted to the Board of Trustees.

A summarized statement of the Hurdman & Cranstoun audit, covering the period ended December 31, 1921, totalled \$51,361,804.94. This statement does not include flour secured previous to 1921 through the United States Grain Corporation and the American Relief Administration, valued at \$12,800,000, nor the value of buildings, land, transportation, equipment, service, food and other supplies contributed in the Near East valued at \$8,000,000, that would bring the total value of relief operations to approximately \$73,000,000.

Up to June 30, 1922, the receipts totalled as follows, in addition to the two items mentioned above:

General Relief Contributions.....	\$55,506,156.33
Individual Relief Contributions.....	2,585,463.08

Total ..... \$58,091,619.41

### A VAST INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

*Near East Relief maintains* 125 orphanages, already overcrowded with 64,107 children. More than 50,000 others in poverty-stricken homes and refugee camps were cared for with the bare necessities of life. These wards of America therefore totaled 115,000 children previous to the recent Near East debacle. The 20,000 in Turkish military territory were all brought out during the Fall of 1922. The Gracco-Turkish disaster which has already created a new refugee population of 1,250,000 and threatens to make destitute another 1,250,000 makes imminent another tragic, unprecedented orphan problem.

*Near East Relief has equipped and staffed:*

59 relief stations	16 Homes for women rescued from
44 hospitals, treating monthly 148,728	Moslem harems
clinic patients	



*Near East Relief has sent overseas since 1915:*

46 physicians and surgeons	32 administrators
95 nurses	48 secretaries
13 mechanics	39 engineers
17 industrial experts	56 supply and transport workers
14 bacteriologists	46 army officers as organizers
20 agriculturalists	285 orphanage and general relief workers
19 teachers	

*Near East employs* an average staff of 300 Americans, many of whom are volunteer workers.

*Near East Relief* shipped overseas up to November 30, 1922, 25,322 tons of clothing, food, medical supplies and other commodities, valued at \$4,251,074.

*The total value of Near East Relief's operations* to date approximate \$73,000,000.

### PERSONAL SERVICE WORK

Widely separated members of families have been brought together, and many home circles made happier through the Personal Service Work of Near East Relief.

This work began in the fall of 1919 when the establishment of Near East Relief centers made it possible to locate individuals whose relatives in this country were looking for word of them. During the three years ending in the summer of 1922, something like two thousand people have been located and over half a million dollars forwarded for their travel expenses to this country. In the summer of 1922 the Caucasus branch made a census of the refugees in the Alexandropol and Erivan regions and up to the present time has sent on 1,800 searchers for relatives in this country with whom the people there have lost touch. Already perhaps a fifth of these people have responded, sending sums of from five to a hundred dollars to their relatives.

Since the Smyrna disaster over five hundred inquiries have been sent out from National Headquarters for refugees from Smyrna and Thrace, but owing to the fearful conditions in the refugee camps it has been impossible to locate many of these people. About two hundred inquiries have come from Salonika, Athens and Mitylene for relatives here, and most of these inquiries have received immediate response.

### HEROISM OF OVERSEAS WORKERS

The fine spirit of heroism, so characteristic of the overseas workers of Near East Relief, is illustrated in the following cablegrams. Many workers have given their lives for the cause and others have suffered great hardships that the work might continue.

"Constantinople, May 12, 1922

"Van Wert in American hospital. Arm amputation due to bone infection successful. Condition improving.

"Constantinople, May 25, 1922

"Van Wert convalescing rapidly. Planning resume duties Caucasus soon."

"Athens, November 2, 1922

"Wright escorting Greek orphans from Malatia, attacked near Katma by eight Kurds, firing fusillade without warning. Applegate received bullet fragments in leg. Wright instantly killed, bullet through neck cutting spinal cord. Party robbed, then proceeded."

"Constantinople, December 12, 1922

"George St. John Williams died from pneumonia due to exposure in Marsovan while evacuating Christian orphans to Black Sea Coast. Although suffering hardships rigorous winter insisted on carrying on. By superhuman efforts got orphans out of Marsovan, when stricken. Weakened through overwork, succumbed. Attended to last by Fannie G. Noyes, only other American in Marsovan."

## AN ESTIMATE OF NEAR EAST RELIEF

(From an address to Near East Relief Workers by Fred B. Smith.)

*I. I congratulate you that you belong to an organization in which the work is so scientifically done.*

I have just returned from a memorable journey which has taken me all around the world. For the scientific administration of funds, I have never seen the equal of Near East Relief in all the welfare, eleemosynary and philanthropic agencies I have observed. I have an evil eye. I am always looking for flaws, not that I take delight in evil but that I may correct it. I went out expecting to find inevitable waste and inefficiency, but was amazed at what I found. Near East Relief is as nearly 100 per cent efficient as is possible in any human organization. It searches out the hour when its beneficiaries may become self supporting and requires a maximum of service in return for its benefits, thus preventing pauperism. It looks not simply to the present crisis and emergency but with rare foresight looks forward to a practical program of reconstruction. My conviction is that it will require at least ten or fifteen years to complete your task. This thing is scientifically done.

*II. I congratulate you that you are the messengers of a new kind of world.*

Because of the character of the work you are doing you are prepared more than any others to demand that such things shall never happen again. Statesmen with all their power have failed to prevent disaster. I stood at Smyrna some months ago when they told me that some day the Turks would take the city and destroy it. I looked out in the harbor and saw the powerful battleships of the nations and I said, "This shall not be, these ships will prevent it." But it has happened. You are doing more to make other disasters like this impossible than any other agency. God pity you if your part of the work is not well done. No one will ever give you another great thing to do if you fail in this one!

*III. I congratulate you that you are the interpreters of the true religion.*

Everywhere I went, in every land, the cry is for religion. What we see now in the Near East is not settled problems but banked fires. The leaders who hold the future are the men who step into the sea of suffering and minister most to folks in need. You have that opportunity. What would have happened if Near East Relief had not been on the job in Smyrna? Hundreds of thousands would have perished but for your ships and bread and workers. Your organization was raised up for this hour to meet this emergency and crisis. This is America's finest illustration of unselfish service.

My schedule from now until the end of March is fixed and I know pretty nearly where I shall be every day during that time, but I promise you that there will be no speech I make, morning, noon or night in all that time, in which somewhere I will not give the message of the Near East Relief. That is how much I believe in your cause.

## OTHER NATIONS CO-OPERATING

America is not alone in this work, but the shoulders of America must carry the main burden.

Greece has shown a most cordial hospitality toward the refugees who are fleeing by hundreds of thousands into Greek territory.

The Greek hospitality has been especially manifested toward the Near East Relief orphans whom it was necessary to bring out of Anatolia. Good quarters have been furnished in safe places on the agreement that we continue the care and support of the orphans. The Armenians in the Near East outside the immediate danger zones are doing everything they can for their countrymen. In several cases Armenian societies have given dollar for dollar for the relief funds we have administered through them.

The Armenian and Syrian Compatriot Societies in this country have sent large sums of money through us, Near East Relief giving dollar for dollar for all sums they contribute in this way.

Individual remittances are frequently transmitted by us from foreign-born people to their relatives and friends in the Near East. These individual remittances have been encouraged.

In the past five years approximately \$2,700,000 has been sent by 30,000 Armenians, Greeks and other nationalities in this country to relatives in the Near East through the Individual Remittance Department. The largest amount was sent during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, in which 3,604 persons sent a total of \$688,751.85. This was before the immigration ban and much of the sum represented money sent for travel expenses to America. During the first four months of the present fiscal year 228 contributors have sent \$190,065.24. This is more than half the total for all of last year.

The remittances were sent through our branch offices in every state in the Union and through national headquarters in New York. The addresses of the recipients include towns in Central Turkey, cut off from practically all communication with the outside world except that furnished through Near East Relief workers, and in Persia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria, and Transcaucasian Russia.

On Dr. Lincoln Wirt's trip around the world Relief Societies were organized in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand. Their gifts have begun to reach the Near East, but may not be expected to assume extra large proportions.

It was Dr. Wirt's intention to appeal to the Christians of Japan, but others insisted on the privilege of co-operating as well, saying that it was a case of human need rather than a case of Christian need.

In Korea Dr. Wirt spoke to an assembly of Christians whom he considered financially unable to give, but with a characteristic answer that "only a widow knows a widow's needs" they insisted on giving their mite.

While we rejoice in the co-operation of the other nations, it is to America that these sufferers must continue to look for their relief and for the training of their orphans until they are rehabilitated through economic reconstruction.

## VII.

### THE CHURCHES IN CO-OPERATION

The churches have given Near East Relief unexcelled support. Nearly all religious bodies have recognized the Christian necessity of this work.

Most of the religious bodies have officially endorsed Near East Relief after serious consideration by their highest governing bodies. Several have appointed special Advisory Committees. Many have adopted plans that make them in effect co-operating organizations.

Pastors desiring full information regarding plans of their own or of all denominations may write the national office for a separate booklet, soon available, giving this information.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CO-OPERATION

*The Sunday Schools have been the backbone of church co-operation in behalf of the Near East. They have been both the leaders and the examples to congregational and denominational co-operation.*

Early in the history of the Near East Relief a group of representative Sunday school leaders visited Asia Minor and made a survey of conditions. These men returned prophets, apostles, crusaders for the cause. There has been no more important contribution to the endeavor than that which they are still making.

Both denominational and interdenominational Sunday school workers have accepted co-operative responsibility. The International Sunday School Association and the Sunday School Council, and their recent amalgamation, the International Sunday School Council for Religious Education, have given consistent leadership and support. An official advisory committee, representative of their forces, leads the general Sunday school work.

Under the leadership of National Denominational Sunday School Executives, with the support of their Boards and Judicatories, National Denominational Sunday School Near East Field Days are set apart or recognized by at least twenty-five Communions, including:

Advent Christian  
\*Seventh Day Adventist  
Northern Baptist  
\*Southern Baptist  
Seventh Day Baptist  
Church of the Brethren  
Christian Church  
Congregationalist  
Disciples of Christ  
United Evangelical  
Evangelical Synod of N. A.  
Methodist Episcopal

Methodist Episcopal, South  
Free Methodist  
Methodist Protestant  
Moravian  
Presbyterian, U. S. A.  
Presbyterian, U. S. (South)  
United Presbyterian  
Protestant Episcopal  
Reformed Church in America  
Reformed Church in the U. S.  
Unitarian  
United Brethren

Universalist

National Sunday School publications of all kinds have given unexampled support. State Associations and State Denominational and Interdenominational leaders have likewise given wise, sympathetic leadership.

The special emphasis in the local Sunday school is the adoption of "Near East orphans" by classes. This human element, in saving those who suffer for the Cross in the Bible Lands, has splendid educational features for the children. It is the building of character, too. For both these reasons, in addition to the humanitarian element, it rightly holds a place in the Sunday school curriculum.

*This work holds great promise. It means the uniting of American youth in behalf of saving and educating the youth in Bible Lands.*

\*See special statement further.

## DENOMINATIONAL NEAR EAST ADVISORY COMMITTEES

There has recently been worked out by interested leaders in certain Communities plans of co-operation that go beyond mere endorsement or the support of the Sunday Schools.

One of the features of this co-operative effort is the authorization and the appointment of National Church Advisory Committees for the purpose of advising the Near East Relief as to the best ways of promoting its work with the denomination in question, and in many cases, of accepting definite tasks of promotion. It gives more nearly a standing with the Communions. It saves overhead expense by using the resources of the denomination in interpreting the Cause, and it aids in securing larger returns. It aims to prevent duplication. The development is in its infancy, and the Advisory Committees are only in process of organization.

The following Communions have recognized or appointed such Advisory Committees:

Northern Baptist Convention	Methodist Protestant
Church of God	Free Methodist
Christian	Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.
Congregational	*Presbyterian Church U. S.
Disciples of Christ	Protestant Episcopal Church
Methodist Episcopal, South	Universalist

The appointees to these Committees are men and women almost invariably of national reputation in their own church, and widely representative of the various church interests. If it were possible to bring the members now officially appointed to such committees together, the gathering would be remarkably representative of the Protestant leadership of America.

Other denominations have definitely requested certain Boards or Standing Committees to represent them in co-operation with the Near East Relief, including:

Seventh Day Adventist—Conference Committee
Southern Baptist—Foreign Mission Board
Church of the Brethren—Relief Committee
United Presbyterian Church—Missionary and Efficiency Committee

## DENOMINATIONAL FIELD DAYS

A recent and most significant development is that taken by a number of denominations in suggesting to pastors the setting aside of a Sunday for the Near East cause, and, if they do not join in a Community Near East Field Day, uniting, if convenient, in a Denominational Near East Relief Field Day, with sermon, and subscriptions for the cause. Such days have been suggested by Convention or Advisory Committee action for 1922-23 as follows:

Seventh Day Adventist, Mar. 10	Methodist Episcopal, South, Jan. 21
Northern Baptist, Jan. 21	Presbyterian, U. S. A., Jan. 21
Southern Baptist, Jan. 14	Christian Church, Christmas or Jan. 21
Church of the Brethren, Jan. 21	Church of God, Thanksgiving
Congregational, Jan. 21	Presbyterian, U. S., Jan. 21
Disciples of Christ, Feb. 4	United Presbyterian, Christmas
	Universalist, Christmas

These national days give an opportunity for a united educational effort. But pastors are encouraged to give priority to the plans of this local community.

## SPECIAL PLANS OF CO-OPERATION

The Protestant Episcopal Church fostered a special nation-wide campaign last Easter, especially among the Women's Auxiliaries, and a number of Bishops are encouraging Diocesan Field Days.

The Methodist Episcopal Board of Bishops and Council of Boards of Benevolence gave special attention and endorsement, and a number of Bishops are leading in Conference support.

The United Lutheran Convention at Buffalo endorsed Near East Relief.

The Mennonites have given very largely.

The Christian Science Mother Church and others co-operate generously.

\*Synodical Representation

## CONVENTION CONFERENCES

Near East Conferences, for the purpose of explaining the situation and determining what plans of co-operation should be placed before the Convention, were held in connection with the following gatherings,—in 1922:

Methodist Episcopal, South, Hot Springs, May  
 Southern Baptist, Jacksonville, Fla., May  
 Presbyterian Church, U. S., Charleston, W. Va., May  
 Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., Des Moines, Ia., May  
 Northern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, June  
 International Convention, Disciples of Christ, Winona Lake, Ind., Aug.  
 Protestant Episcopal Convention, Portland, Ore., Sept.  
 United Lutheran Church, Buffalo, N. Y., Nov.  
 Christian Convention, Burlington, N. C., Nov.

These conferences were usually held at luncheon or dinner, and were invariably attended by representative leaders.

## REGIONAL, STATE AND DISTRICT CO-OPERATION

One of the next steps, we hope, will be a leadership—a spontaneous leadership,—by Regional, State and District religious bodies,—such as Dioceses, Synods, Conferences, State Conventions, Associations and Presbyteries, and by corresponding official leaders, both executive and supervisory. We trust that there will not only be generous endorsements, but definite promotional plans for co-operation with the State offices of the Near East Relief. We urge the appointment of Advisory Committees corresponding to the National Advisory Committees, or at least of Correspondents,—selecting always those known to be deeply interested in the Near East Cause.

Developments in this line are not extensive. They include:

Disciples—Action by several State Conventions.  
 Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal, South—Endorsements and leadership by Bishops, Superintendents and Presiding Elders  
 Presbyterian, U. S. A.—Action by forty Presbyteries and several Synods  
 Presbyterian, U. S.—Official Synodical Representatives appointed by General Assembly  
 Protestant Episcopal—Several Diocesan offerings  
 Universalist—Action by nearly all Conventions.

## RELIGIOUS PRESS

The cordial co-operation of the editors and managers of the religious publications accounts for a large part of the knowledge of and sympathy for the Near East. They have given freely not only in news columns, but in editorials and in advertising space.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

Many local young people's societies have adopted orphans, but a new development has recently arisen, viz.—placing the Near East problem and cause officially in the educational programs for young people. The initiative in this plan is being taken by:

Southern Methodist Epworth Leagues  
 Southern Presbyterian Young People's Societies  
 Methodist Protestant Societies

A pamphlet for use by young people's societies has been prepared and may be secured upon request. It is hoped that other National Societies will soon take this step.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CO-OPERATION

Since this Hand-book is primarily for Protestant ministers, an extended statement of *Roman Catholic* co-operation is not necessary. But it is of general interest that the Near East Relief receives active support and co-operation from the Church, from the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of America, Women's Catholic Council, and Catholic Benevolent Legion. There have been special collections in fourteen Dioceses.

## INTERDENOMINATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Seldom have the churches in America worked together as they are working together on the Near East Relief. In local community campaigns and church field days the pastors are almost invariably the leaders. The Pastors Associations, and in the larger cities Church Federations, most sympathetically co-operate or frequently take initiative and leadership.

The Near East Relief is in spirit and to all intents and purposes the national co-operating body of the various denominations so far as relief to the suffering peoples of the Near East is concerned. Apparently no need has been felt for a new overhead co-operating organization, especially in view of the fact the Federal Council of Churches possesses for the most of the co-operating denominations whatever authority may be needed for an additional organization. The Federal Council and the Near East Relief are seeking to work together to the fullest possible extent.

The plan has been to have each religious body present the Near East Relief in the best way possible, largely through its own channels without an attempt to create an overhead co-operating organization.

The result of all of this has been one of the best examples of co-operation yet seen among church bodies, reminding one of their work in the War-time Commission of the Churches. The secret of the present support is that the churches realize the overwhelming task, and the spirit of Christ is moving in the hearts of people to meet it.

We will mention the endorsements of the Federal Council of Churches and some of the other general church organizations.

### Federal Council of Churches

*Endorsement.* The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has continuously endorsed Near East Relief.

At its Quadrennial Meeting, December 6, 1920, Boston, Mass., the following was included in the action of the Council:

"We reaffirm the several actions of the Federal Council and its committees with reference to the Near East Relief and the urgency of the appeal in behalf of the thousands of orphans."

At the Annual Meeting, December 15, 1922, in Indianapolis:

(See section on "Protection", p. 25, for further action.)

"There are numerous causes for congratulation over the response of America to the appeals for Near East Relief. The sympathetic attitude of our Government, the work of Near East Relief, the support of which the secretaries, the Commission on International Justice and Good Will, and the Administrative Committee of the Council have given, are acknowledged with grateful appreciation.

"The relief measures have been executed with courage and efficiency. The Near East Relief workers, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the workers of various church missionary organizations have been potent factors. Regardless of creed, class or geographical location our people have responded with commendable liberality.

"The American naval officers and the men under them have given prompt and notable humanitarian aid during the recent tragic periods in the history of Smyrna, Northern and Central Anatolia, Constantinople, Thrace and Syria. We record our keen appreciation of this noble service.

"The American flag has protected more than a hundred thousand children. In this group so tenderly cared for is the hope of the future leadership of the Near East.

"The Churches represented in the Federal Council have generally assured leadership in the community campaigns for funds. Success would not have been possible without this generous and united co-operation.

"We must impress our people with the fact that the needs are more urgent than ever. Deplore it as we may, there is little change in the situation. Gaunt forms of need are on every hand. To fail to 'carry on' would be not only to forsake want and suffering in its most acute forms but in large measure to lose what we have so far saved. These orphaned children are in a real sense our wards. These sorely smitten people still look to us as their only hope. America must see it through."

Dr. Charles S. Macfarland, General Secretary of the Federal Council:

"Every consideration appears to lay this great cause upon the consciences and hearts of the people of America, and especially of Christian men and women."

"No situation has ever gripped the religious conscience of the American people as have the present conditions in the Near East.

"The churches are, I believe, prepared uncomplainingly to continue and to redouble their work of humanitarian relief.

"I think it is clearly realized that this demand for permanent settlement of this awful problem should not in the least hinder the continuance of the outpouring of our sympathy expressed in practical and material terms for the relief of suffering."

By Dr. Roy B. Guild, Executive Secretary of the Federal Council's Commission on Councils of Churches:

"During the years that the Near East Relief has been rendering such wonderful service to the destitute people of the Near East it has been a pleasure to note a very general interest on the part of the Secretaries of the Councils and Federations of Churches throughout the country in that work and their willingness to co-operate."

By Dr. Herbert L. Willett of Chicago, Western Representative of Federal Council of Churches:

"There is no cause that is so imperious and insistent at the present moment in its appeal for American sympathy as that of Near East Relief. The Near East is at present the Lazarus of the nations. Much has been done in the past to meet this situation but the need grows worse in spite of all that has been done. It means that Christian nations, and, most of all, America, must carry on until the dawn of a better day."

### **Foreign Missions Conference**

*Endorsement.* The following endorsement of Near East Relief was passed by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America in session at Garden City, L. I., January 20, 1921. The Foreign Missions Conference is composed of representatives from practically all Protestant evangelical missionary agencies, and is one of the most important in the interdenominational field.

*"Resolved,* That we heartily endorse the work of Near East Relief and commend it to the churches and Christian people of America for continued support."

The Committee of Reference and Counsel of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, January, 1922, Atlantic City, N. J., took the following action:

*"Resolved,* That we reaffirm our endorsement of the work of the Near East Relief and commend it to the churches and Christian people of America for continued support."



## VIII.

# THE PASTOR AND HIS CHURCH IN THE NEAR EAST

## THE PASTOR'S PROGRAM IN HIS OWN CHURCH

(By a Pastor)

If we accept the proposition that leadership in answering the challenge of Christian minorities in the Near East must lie with the churches of America, the conclusion is inevitable that the burden of response is upon those of us who are pastors of these churches. We are the leaders; the Church stands still or moves forward on a program such as this largely as the pastor determines. This fact brings the orphans of the Near East to the very threshold of the manses of America. It is ours to answer the Master's challenge, "Give Ye Them to Eat." It is ours to say whether they shall live or die: What shall the answer be?

But the question comes, how shall we go about this program in our churches?

*First*, let the facts burn into our own souls. Unless we are filled with the fire of a great determination to face this need our people will be indifferent to the challenge.

*Second*, in order to secure the largest possible response on the part of our churches we should organize our forces, looking forward to the taking of the offering at least a week in advance. Different societies within our Church should be called to our assistance and a committee should be appointed which would, under our direction, prepare all of the details for the Near East Sunday Service. This Committee should thoroughly advertise the event in the local papers and otherwise. They should carry on a program of education in which many of the most vital facts in connection with this work would be stated. The pastor and his official board should together go over these facts as they consider the important question of devoting a full sermon period to this cause.

*Third*, The Sermon.

There must be an adequate presentation.

Here is where the pastor has the opportunity to reap large results in his Near East endeavor. We are overwhelmed by the great array of facts. These are vital, impressive, challenging facts. What an appeal to the hearts of men and women! What a human interest story this is! Where can you find a greater need? We wish it were possible to print in full the sermon preached by Rev. R. E. Vale, D.D., of the First Presbyterian Church of Oak Park, Ill., which resulted in an offering of over \$7,000. National Headquarters, Near East Relief, 151 Fifth Avenue, New York City, has this sermon in pamphlet form and will be glad to mail it to you upon your request.

*Fourth*, the taking of pledges and an offering. A sermon plus a "collection" is not "enough to save them." A sermon plus a *subscription* is the *only* adequate plan.

Near East Relief has provided subscription envelopes which pastors are requested to have the ushers place, at the conclusion of the sermon, in the hands of every person present.

Write to your State Near East Relief Headquarters, the address of which you will find on the third page cover of this handbook, for the quantity you need for your congregation.

For the sake of perishing humanity, let us use this "*Subscription Envelope*" in connection with our sermon appeal, pledging our people to give individual subscriptions to the Near East Relief on the basis of a monthly amount for one year.

We know the American Church people will gladly respond.

It is our duty to afford them this opportunity in connection with our sermon on Near East Relief.

### SUGGESTED SERMON TEXTS

Luke, 2:7: "There was no room for them in the Inn."

1 John, 3:17: "But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

Matthew, 9:36: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

Matthew, 25:37, 38, 40, 45: "Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?"

"When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?"

"And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

"Then shall he answer them saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Mark, 10:14: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

John, 21:15-17: "So when they had dined Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yes, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

"He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

Mark, 6:37-44: "He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat . . . and they all ate and were filled . . . and they that ate the loaves were about 5,000 men."

Matthew, 7:12: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

James, 2:15-16: "If a brother or sister be naked, and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body, what doth it profit?"

Luke, 10:35: "He took out two shillings and gave them . . . and said, Take care of him and whatsoever thou spendest more, I will repay thee."

James, 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, and to keep one's self unspotted from the world."

### IN THE STEPS OF OUR MASTER

Never, since the days of the Apostles, has the Christian Church had as great an opportunity in Bible Lands as it has today.

A million Christians in these lands have, within the last five years, suffered martyrdom.

A disproportionately large number of the survivors are orphaned children. These children are potentially the future leaders of a new Near East. They have become the wards of Christian America.

At present the American Churches are following literally in the steps of our Master and the early Apostles.

Beginning at Jerusalem—one of our best orphanages is just outside the Joppa gate, certainly not very far from the spot where Jesus himself called the little children unto Him, placed His hands upon their heads and blest them, saying, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

At Sidon and throughout Syria we have approximately 7,000 orphaned children—not so very many miles from the spot where Jesus fed the 5,000 from the five barley loaves and the two small fishes. It is our privilege today, in His name, to feed in these same Bible lands, not 5,000 men and women, but 10,000 little children, most of whom would perish if we failed them.

In Tarsus—the birthplace of the Apostle Paul—we are today caring for orphaned boys. Who knows what successors to the great Apostle may today be numbered among the boys on our orphanage playground in Tarsus?

In Cilicia, Phrygia, Galatia, Cappadocia, as well as in Smyrna and among the descendants and successors of the seven Churches of Asia, our American relief workers today are literally walking in the footsteps of Paul, Barnabas, and the early Apostles, who went through these same regions, "ministering to the necessities of the Saints and carrying relief to the brethren."

Will the American churches continue in this glorious apostolic succession?

In the centuries to come it may be said that, as certain great events changed the history of the Near East during the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries, so, immediately following the great world war of 1914-18, a new era began in the Near East—an unprecedented number of orphans of the Christian subject races was left in the wake of this war, these orphans were saved and gathered into institutions through American philanthropy, and by a quiet, friendly, loving, altruistic, educational program, their lives were so influenced that about the middle of the Twentieth Century these orphans, having come to places of leadership in business, industry, the professions and in government, gradually but surely influenced, remolded and re-established the social and political standards, introducing from that time forward a new era of love and mutual self-respect among the races and nations, which made war and strife a thing of the past in this war-cursed area.

God grant that Christian America may not be disobedient to the heavenly vision.

## TECHNIQUE OF THE NEAR EAST SERVICE.

### I—BEFORE THE SERMON

- (1) We trust you will make use of the material in this pamphlet, in the preparation of your sermon.
- (2) Announce the Near East service in local papers and in your Church Bulletins for weeks in advance.
- (3) Make sure that subscription envelopes with pencils and blank checks attached, usher's instruction cards or any other material needed are on hand in sufficient quantity for each person present.

### II—INSTRUCTIONS TO USHERS

- (1) Do not distribute the subscription envelopes in the seats before the meeting.
- (2) Subscription envelopes should be kept in the rear until called for.
- (3) The ushers should decide in advance among themselves which part of the auditorium each one is to cover.
- (4) The speaker, at the close of his address, will call upon the ushers to pass the subscription envelopes.
- (5) The ushers should come forward together with a sufficient number of envelopes, and beginning at the front seat, give one to each person in the audience.
- (6) After the speaker has made his appeal and the envelopes are signed, he will call on the ushers to collect them.
- (7) The envelopes should be collected in baskets or plates.
- (8) The regular church offering should be emptied from the plates or baskets before collecting the envelopes.

### III—TAKING THE SUBSCRIPTION

- (1) Reserve at least ten minutes for taking the subscriptions.
- (2) Use subscription envelopes wherever possible. Do not be satisfied with an offering. Blank checks should be clipped on each subscription envelope. A form of check is printed herewith:

#### THIS IS A NEGOTIABLE CHECK

No. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ BANK OF \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF BANK

CITY OR TOWN

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **Near East Relief** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

STREET

COUNTY

- (3) Ask the ushers to pass the envelopes quickly, one to each person present. When all have received them, read the pledge.
- (4) Fix attention upon the orphan adoption plan. Urge individuals to save a life, \$5.00 a month, \$60.00 a year—or \$300.00 for five years' support of an orphan. Suggest to families the support of an orphan for each member of the family or at least one orphan to a family. Urge Sunday School classes and Missionary Societies and other groups to take at least one orphan, several where practicable. The following cut illustrates the subscription envelope:

PLEASE USE THIS ENVELOPE <b>NEAR EAST RELIEF</b> 151 FIFTH AVENUE		
M _____		
Street _____		
City _____		
Date _____		
Organization _____		
	\$25.00    per month	For one year (unless cancelled by me) I will give to NEAR EAST RELIEF work the sum per month in- dicated by my (X) marked, or
	\$15.00    per month	
	\$10.00    per month	
	\$ 5.00    per month	
	\$ 2.00    per month	
	\$ 1.00    per month	
	\$ _____ per month	
	\$ _____ Cash Gift	

N. B. \$10 in one payment includes Magazine "New Near East"

**\$5.00 per month** provides for one orphan

How many will **You Save?**

(Facsimile of Pledge Envelope)

- (5) If desired, cash may be paid on a subscription by attaching bills or by using the blank check attached to the subscription envelope.
- (6) Allow plenty of time for signing the subscriptions and ask the ushers to pass slowly through the audience to receive the pledges and cash contributions.

- (7) After all have subscribed and the subscriptions are taken up, suggest that each person take one or more envelopes and endeavor to secure subscriptions from others who are not present. Unless National Denominational Boards request otherwise, churches are encouraged to give their offerings to the local community or State Treasurers of the Near East Relief; or you may send your offering directly to the National Treasurer—

CLEVELAND H. DODGE, 151 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Some large returns may be secured by a definite follow-up after the Near East service in your church. The pastor and his Near East Committee can do the follow-up work with very little effort. Two classes should be visited to secure returns in this follow-up:

First: People of ability to give who were at your service when you made the appeal but who failed to sign a pledge at that time. A personal visit will often secure large contributions from these.

Second: Loyal members of your congregation, and who generally contribute to all good causes, who were not present at the service when your sermon was preached. A personal appeal will often reach them with very excellent results.

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### THE PASTOR AND HIS SUNDAY SCHOOL

The pastors should see that the Sunday Schools are given an opportunity to have a part in this work for the children in Bible lands, whose lives they can save, both because of the connection of this study of present-day conditions in Bible lands with their Sunday School studies and for the reflex effect of sacrificial giving on themselves.

The following points should be covered:

Be personally responsible for the observing of Near East Relief Day in the Sunday Schools at the time set aside by your denomination. This day should be planned for well in advance; posters, pledge cards, collection envelopes and special program material for Sunday School superintendents should be secured from the Near East State Director. The teachers should be given full instructions and information so that when the appeal is made they can intelligently discuss with their classes the question of supporting one of the orphans. Place before the school, as an ideal, the supporting of an orphan by each class. On the day appointed for the special offering see that the posters are put up in prominent places—that special announcements appear in the church calendar and that some mention is made from the pulpit.

One of the most remarkable things in the religious world today is the way in which, since the Near East Relief was first organized, the great Denominational Sunday School Boards have taken upon themselves the responsibility for the care of these children of Bible lands. All the leading Denominational and Inter-denominational Sunday School bodies have given their endorsement to the work and are lending invaluable assistance in carrying the message to every Sunday School.

### THE PASTOR AND HIS YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

In view of the interest of all young people in the present political situation in the Near East, the pastor should have no difficulty in getting the Young Peoples' Society President to devote at least one service to a study of the whole Near East question, including relief, leading up to the adoption of at least one orphan by the Society. The presidents should be personally interviewed and materials placed in their hands for the carrying through of a strong program. Special material for this purpose is prepared by National Headquarters of Near East Relief. Many societies may wish to devote a month to this study—taking up various phases of the Near Eastern question, such as the historical background of the various races—the economic and political conditions, the religious question and the present task of the Near East Relief organization.

Some of the leading denominations have been so impressed by the value of such a study that they have included the Near East question in the young peoples' program of the year and have set aside an official day for that purpose.

### THE PASTOR AND THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Church women are trained and organized for exactly this sort of volunteer service. The pastor should confer with the presidents of the organizations, placing in their hands material for a special program on Near East Relief at one of their regular meetings which should result in their active co-operation in three ways:

- (1) The support of an orphan.
- (2) Sewing for the children.
- (3) Collecting clothing at the time of the Old Clothes Campaign.

For the best returns, the women's organizations should be reached during the Community Campaign or at the same time the Near East question is being discussed in the Church and Sunday School.

### THE PASTOR AND OTHER CO-OPERATING AGENCIES

Churches ask whether they have the entire burden of the support of this work. By no means.

The Near East Relief has followed the policy of seeking the co-operation of existing organizations which have a religious, fraternal, social, or philanthropic motive and spirit. As with the churches, we are not trying to unite or co-ordinate these organizations under a new overhead agency, but are working with them in their own way, believing that is the best method of reaching their constituency.

The roster of the national, state, and local organizations aiding this cause through their official committees or through the voluntary assistance of leading individuals would include most of the leading organizations of America. Our indebtedness to them is great.

Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Community Chests, Rotary Clubs, Commercial Clubs, Improvement Associations, Fraternal Societies, Social Clubs, Colleges, Public Schools, Agricultural Organizations, Indus-

trial Bodies, including organized labor, Railway and Steamship Executives, and numerous others, have given us co-operation with a heartiness that has inspired us with new zeal.

Young Men's Christian Associations are everywhere co-operating. The General Secretaries are experts in community affairs and are most efficient campaign advisors. The International Convention recently gave strong endorsement. Pastors can aid in recognizing this leadership for Near East Relief.

The Near East Relief has been very happy in its co-operation both with the churches and with these other organizations. No other cause since November 11, 1918, has called forth such a universal response from all the people of America as the challenge of the Near East.

Pastors can assist greatly in securing the co-operation of local organizations of which they may be members or in which they may exert influence.

Make an opportunity for presenting this great cause to the clubs and organizations of your community. An address of only five or eight minutes before a Rotary Club often brings a large return.

Many pastors have rendered splendid service by heading up Community or County Committees.

In many communities the pastors have rendered an invaluable service by conducting a house-to-house Near East Campaign. In the average case this ought to be done by the churches uniting after a Near East presentation in all of the pulpits in the community.

Endeavor to secure a place on convention programs for a speaker on the Near East Relief. Probably a member of the Convention, although some pastor in a community will often get larger results. The State office of the Near East Relief will be glad to furnish speakers for important occasions where desired.

Help to secure the passing of a plan of co-operation in these Conventions by which the organization recognizes not only the need and the value of Near East Relief, but calls upon its local organizations for actual support.

Wherever feasible assist in the holding of a Near East Relief Conference in connection with the meeting at which there should be those most deeply interested in the promotion of the cause to discuss the problems of promotion.



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The Official Monthly Periodical of Near East Relief

Pastors are invited to write for additional information to the

**CHURCH RELATIONS DIVISION**

**NEAR EAST RELIEF**

151 Fifth Avenue

New York City

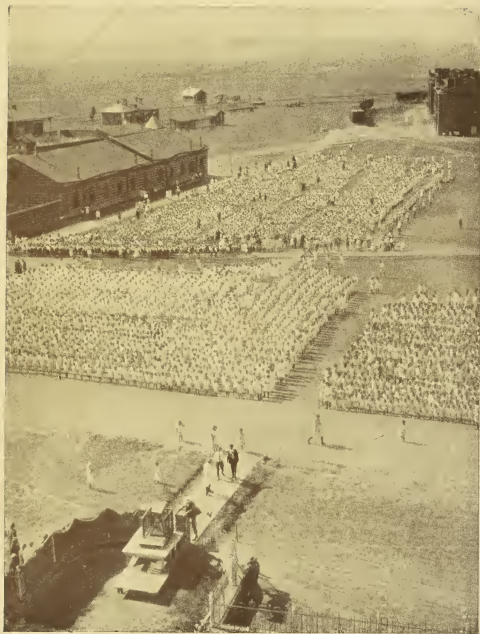
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W. E. DOUGHTY..... <i>Asso. Gen. Sec.</i>	JOHN W. MACE..... <i>Nat. Field Dir.</i>
J. R. VORIS..... <i>Asso. Gen. Sec.</i>	ALONZO E. WILSON..... <i>Nat. Field Dir.</i>

### STATE OFFICES

<p><b>Alabama</b> 2027 Jefferson Co. Bk. Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.</p> <p><b>Arizona</b> 517 Wright &amp; Callender Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.</p> <p><b>Arkansas</b> Arcade Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.</p> <p><b>California (North)</b> 333 Mills Bldg., San Francisco, Calif.</p> <p><b>California (South)</b> 517 Wright &amp; Callender Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.</p> <p><b>Colorado</b> 413 Chamber of Com- merce Bldg., Denver, Colo.</p> <p><b>Connecticut</b> 512 Hartford, Conn., Tr. Co. Bldg., Hartford, Conn.</p> <p><b>Delaware</b> N. E. Cor. Broad and Locust Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.</p> <p><b>District of Columbia</b> N. Y. Ave. and 14th St. Washington, D. C.</p> <p><b>Florida</b> 509 Clark Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p><b>Georgia</b> 409 Georgia Savings Bk. Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.</p> <p><b>Idaho</b> P. O. Box 796, Boise, Idaho.</p> <p><b>Illinois</b> 19 South LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill.</p> <p><b>Indiana</b> 528 Peoples Bk. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.</p> <p><b>Iowa</b> 521 Securities Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa.</p> <p><b>Kansas</b> 211 Central Natl. Bk. Bldg., Topeka, Kansas.</p> <p><b>Kentucky</b> 724 So. 4th Street, Louisville, Ky.</p>	<p><b>Louisiana</b> 2027 Jefferson Co. Bk. Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.</p> <p><b>Maine</b> 80 Exchange St., Room 23, Portland, Maine.</p> <p><b>Maryland</b> 14 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, Md.</p> <p><b>Massachusetts</b> 1218 Little Bldg., Boston, Mass.</p> <p><b>Michigan</b> 1106 Stroh Bldg., Detroit, Mich.</p> <p><b>Minnesota</b> 305 Oneida Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.</p> <p><b>Mississippi</b> 2027 Jefferson Co. Bk. Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.</p> <p><b>Missouri (East)</b> 417 Chemical Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.</p> <p><b>Missouri (West)</b> 701 Scarritt Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.</p> <p><b>Montana</b> 732 5th Avenue, Helena, Mont.</p> <p><b>Nebraska</b> 401 Michel Bldg., Omaha, Neb.</p> <p><b>Nevada</b> 333 Mills Bldg., San Francisco, Calif.</p> <p><b>New Hampshire</b> 805 Amoskeag Bk. Bldg., Manchester, N. H.</p> <p><b>New Jersey</b> 156 Market St., Room 56, Newark, N. J.</p> <p><b>New Mexico</b> 517 Wright &amp; Callender Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.</p> <p><b>New York</b> 151 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.</p> <p><b>North Carolina</b> 901 Citizens Natl. Bk. Bldg., Raleigh, N. C.</p> <p><b>North Dakota</b> 110 Broadway, Room 12, Fargo, N. D.</p>	<p><b>Ohio</b> 404 The 1900 Euclid Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.</p> <p><b>Oklahoma</b> 409 Grain Exchange Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.</p> <p><b>Oregon</b> 613 Stock Ex. Bldg., Portland, Oregon.</p> <p><b>Pennsylvania</b> N. E. Cor. Broad and Locust Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.</p> <p><b>Rhode Island</b> 56 Washington St., Room 204, Providence, R. I.</p> <p><b>South Carolina</b> 1325 Main Street, Columbia, S. C.</p> <p><b>South Dakota</b> 419 Western Natl. Bk. Bldg., Mitchell, S. D.</p> <p><b>Tennessee</b> Y. M. C. A. Bldg., Memphis, Tenn.</p> <p><b>Texas</b> 1614 Bryan Street, Dallas, Texas.</p> <p><b>Utah</b> 120 E. 1st St. So., Salt Lake City, Utah.</p> <p><b>Vermont</b> 805 Amoskeag Bank Bldg., Manchester, N. H.</p> <p><b>Virginia</b> 312 Amer. Natl. Bk. Bldg., Richmond, Va.</p> <p><b>Washington</b> 722 Peyton Bldg., Spokane, Wash.</p> <p><b>Washington</b> 339 Burke Bldg., Seattle, Wash.</p> <p><b>West Virginia</b> 224 State St. Bk. Bldg., Charleston, W. Va.</p> <p><b>Wisconsin</b> 229 Plankinton Arcade, Milwaukee, Wis.</p> <p><b>Wyoming</b> 413 Chamber of Com- merce Bldg., Denver, Colo.</p>
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## The Largest Family in the World Assembling for Church



Part of the 17,000 children in the orphanage at Alexandropol. 110,000 orphans are cared for by Near East Relief. This work is done in a Christian atmosphere. (Note pulpit in foreground).